

Labor - 1927

Peonage

N. THOMAS SAVES PEON

AT WASHINGTON, D. C.—ASSISTS MOTHER'S CIVIC ASSO. TO FREE BOY WORKING FOR NOTHING—THOMAS SPEAKS IN FANEUIL HALL JUNE 16—HEAR HIM

The Mothers' Civic Protective Union of which Mrs. Thornton is President has discovered a case of peonage here at the National Capital. A white man from Maryland found a colored boy there several years ago, brought him to Washington, hired him out, appropriating his wages to himself, and forced him to do menial work at home. After those years of wage earning and additional hard work at his master's



PROF. NEVAL H. THOMAS

The Great Race Champion and Sterling Orator who Comes from Washington to Speak in Faneuil Hall, proceeding from Spot Where At-tucks Fell on State St. to the Hall at 8 Thursday Night, and at Bunker Hill Monument Friday at 4—Peter Salem Day Anti-Segregation Orator

home, the boy has absolutely nothing. Mrs. Thornton invited Neval H. Thomas, President of the Washington Branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and members of its National Board of Directors, to meet the League and receive the facts for further investigation. Mr. Thomas visited the engraving establishment where both master and his peon were working and secured the statement of the boy. He demanded the release of the boy under threat of putting the police

power of the state on the case. The Mothers' Civic Protective Union then secured a good home for the boy and placed him there, where for the first time he is able to secure the benefit of his earnings. Mr. Thomas stated that both the League, and the N. A. A. C. P. are endeavoring to secure evidence in the case to recover the earnings of the boy, and to prosecute the man who has wronged him and violated the law. Mr. Thomas appeals to the other branches of the N. A. A. C. P. throughout the country to be vigilant for this crime, and to co-operate with all other agencies in their communities, both north and south, for there are many poor colored people who are suffering similar handicaps. White people moving north are bringing unknowing Negro boys and girls with them and hold them as peons. Five years ago the Association discovered a similar case here.

SECOND PEONAGE CASE FOUND IN WASHINGTON

WASHINGTON, D. C.—The second case of peonage was discovered in the nation's capital this week, when the local N. A. A. C. P. and the Mothers' Protective Union rescued a boy, whom it is said had been held in involuntary servitude by a white man for three years.

According to Neval H. Thomas, president of the Washington branch of the N. A. A. C. P., the boy was taken to Washington from Maryland several years ago by a white man, who hired him out. Investigation shows that during the last three years the boy has received no remuneration and has absolutely nothing.

With Mrs. Thornton of the Mothers' Protective Union. Mr. Thomas visited the place where the boy worked and demanded his release, under threat of summoning police aid. The home was then secured by the Mothers' Protective Union and for the first time the lad is receiving regular earnings. The N. A. A. C. P. is gathering evidence with the intent of suing those who held the boy for back wages.

A similar case was discovered in Washington five years ago by the N. A. A. C. P.

Mothers Union Describes Peonage In Which 18 Year Old Youth Was Held And Sent To School Only 3 Years.

To the Editor:

At the regular monthly meeting of the Mothers' Civic Protective Union in May, the Secretary was authorized to investigate the case of an 18 year old colored boy who has been in the hands of a white man on a backhouse street, since he was seven years old. The facts in that case follow—

The boy was taken from his home, brought to Washington and held as a menial in this white family, without pay. He had eight years at least, in which to acquire an education—six of those years the laws of this place require attendance at school or until the 8th grade is passed. This boy was sent to military Road school up to the 3rd grade and was sent home for nothing. His master did not send him back to school, nor did the military Road School officials send to investigate his delinquency or seek to bring to account the man who kept him out.

We found this boy with a desire to move among people of his race and ignorant to find a way.

We called Mr. Neval H. Thomas to meet with our executives and to bring to bear his ability and experience to find the absolute truths in the matter. Mr. Thomas did this and we found a home for the boy.

We have found that the compensation law did not exist in this boy's case, for he was the only servant in this home and that for some time he has been hired out away from this home and his wages used to swell his boss's holdings. That was at first \$6 per week—\$312 per year. For nearly a year he has earned from \$10 to \$12 per week, as at present. Ten dollars of this had to be handed in to the wife of his master for the privilege of washing dishes, scrubbing her floors, cleaning her windows, cellar etc., mowing her lawn or such as that, sometimes walking the distance to work on D Street, when she had taken all.

Taught that education to him was unnecessary, he could not miss it.

Taught servility, he could never express manhood. Intimidated beyond reason he could never show a courageous tendency.

There would be no strain on any Negro mind to imagine the boy's training and treatment in the eight years of service.

Now he is eighteen. His desires are to be as others of his age.

He hardly has the qualifications of an 8 year old.

And what will compensate him for the loss of an education or as much of an education as was possible to acquire in the eight years of slavery?

Mrs. L. B. Dungee, Secretary, Mothers' Civic Protective Union, Washington, D. C.

PEONAGE CHARGED BY N. A. A. C. P. IN THE NATIONAL CAPITAL

The Mothers' Civic Protective Union of which Mrs. Thornton is president, has discovered a case of peonage here at the National Capital. A white man from Maryland found a colored boy there several years ago, brought him to Washington, hired him out, appropriating his wages to himself, and forced him to do menial work at home. After these years of wage earning and additional hard work at his master's home, the boy has absolutely nothing. Mrs. Thornton invited Neval H. Thomas, president of the Washington Branch of The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, to meet the League and receive the facts for further investigation. Mr. Thomas visited the engraving establishment where both the master and his peon were working, and secured the statement of the boy. He demanded the release of the boy under threat of putting the police power of the state on the case. The Mothers' Civic Protective Union then secured a good home for the boy and placed him there, where for the first time he is able to secure the benefit of his earnings. Mr. Thomas states that both the League and the N. A. A. C. P. are endeavoring to secure evidence in the case to recover the earnings of the boy, and to prosecute the man who has wronged him and violated the law. Mr. Thomas appeals to the other branches of the N. A. A. C. P. throughout the country to be vigilant for this crime, and to co-operate with all other agencies in their communities, both north and south, for there are many poor colored people who are suffering similar handicaps. White people moving into the north are bringing unknowing Negro boys and girls with them and hold them as peons. Five years ago the Association discovered a similar case here.

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Peonage.

IT IS NOT DEAD!

(This Week's Cartoon)

It is not surprising to learn that slavery still exists in many sections of these United States. The element of surprise comes in the announcement of the fact that the federal government has at last indicted some one for carrying on this inhuman practice. We knew slavery existed; we knew our government knew it; we knew it has been known pretty generally since troops were removed from the Southland after Grant's administration.

We had petitioned, had begged, had implored our government to take steps against it. Lynchings, we know, are direct results of the peonage system—that system of slavery wherein a man has no regard for the rights of his fellow man. Where injustice, unfairness and cruelties run rampant—where nobody has respect for law and order.

Every year there are men, women and children disappearing in all sections of Dixie. Many reappear with definite, shocking details of kidnaping and abuse—others are found floating in Dixie's sluggish streams—some dug from shallow graves—and many are never again seen. And our government, to all intents and purposes, is not interested. Southern senators in congress yell loudly about mistreatment of Americans on foreign soil—they take steps to regulate the conduct of Americans in the North—they stand in our legislative halls and prate of corruption in politics, and refuse to seat an appointee from a northern state for fear that they might be contaminated by his corrupt methods.

And now, a half century after the death of the one who thought he had abolished slavery, comes an indictment of slavers in America. America—the "Land of the brave and the home of the FREE!"

SENTINEL

ROME, N. Y.

FEB 4 1927

Negro Slavery Revived?

Congress steadfastly refuses to take the constitutional means of penalizing states for their nullification of the 15th amendment, but Uncle Sam, as represented by the executive branch of the government, does occasionally strike a blow in support of the 14th amendment, which prohibits involuntary servitude except for crime. Agents roam the South in search of peonage—a type of slavery akin to the old fashioned sort but having no sanction in law. Ordinarily the Negroes have been convinced that they have become the property of the whites through failure to pay their debts.

In last night's Sentinel appeared a tale from New Orleans in which the victims were kidnaped as a family and compelled to labor under most distressing conditions. More than that, the abductors are represented as having "sold" them to their taskmasters. How that could well be, it is difficult to conceive. In the state of Louisiana there are almost inaccessible plantations where one might imagine kidnaped persons could be worked under cover for a considerable period in relative safety to their oppressors; and the latter might have thought to hire thugs to perform the kidnaping. A sale, however, presupposes ownership on the part of the vendor—and what white man would imagine that another had a vested right in a third human being, even of dark skin, in this year of grace?

The report, however, recalls vividly the practice back before the Civil War of disreputable slave dealers who plied their trade along Mason and Dixon's line, or even higher up on the great rivers. They would kidnap likely Negroes of both sexes and spirit them away from a Free State into a Slave State. In the latter they would be sold for the marketprice. There was, however, this wide difference between that practice and the case just reported from New Orleans: Slavery was then a recognized institution in a great body of states—indeed, it was recognized in the very constitution of the

United States and upheld by a decision of the Supreme Court. There were state laws intended to protect the purchaser from fraud. When the abductors of escaped or lawfully free blacks offered them for sale, they had to produce bills of sale supposedly proving property right in the human chattels. Either these were forged, or they were genuine as to form but fraudulent as to their application. That is, the abductor would have procured the papers from the owner of a runaway slave, and the description of the latter would be sufficiently vague to permit the buyer of the abducted one to accept it as genuine. Of course, the Negro might declare his right to freedom, but it was almost impossible for him to appeal to the courts and utterly impossible to have his word accepted there as against a white man's.

General

Labor-1927

Georgia

Peonage

UNCOVER GIGANTIC PEONAGE FARM IN HEART OF GEORGIA

Peonage Boss Goes On Trial In U. S. Court. Admits he Flogged Colored Persons On Plantations.

DEATH THREATS MADE AGAINST NEGRO WITNESS

Declare They Were Forced To Do Work Under Armed Guards, and Subjected To Brutalities

ATHENS, Ga., June 9.—(Special to the St. Louis Argus)—With alleged threats to slay them if they should tell the truth about conditions on an Oglethorpe county plantation, colored Americans have undauntedly disclosed the existence of a state of slavery on the plantation in testimony offered in the trial of Dr. W. R. King, white former operator of the plantation, for peonage in the U. S. District court. The testimony which began Monday was completed Wednesday afternoon.

Probe Ordered. Evidence was offered to show that about 50 colored tenants are being held on King's 400-acre farm near Lexington and forced to work under armed guards and subjected to all sorts of brutalities. The case followed the story of James Melton, who appeared in a Danville, Va. police station last week and told of his escape from the modern slave farm resulting in Governor Clifford ordering a rigid investigation by the department of justice.

Enslaved Negroes. Witnesses for the government testified that colored Americans were tied while being transported from the stockade in Atlanta to the saw-mill, were whipped with buggy traces, made to sleep on a pile of hay and given little food.

Government witnesses testified that five who had been taken to the saw mill from the Atlanta stockade, five graves on the plantation if given the protection of the state of Georgia.

Several witnesses, including two girls, testified that King had whipped them, and Maude Bailey, one of the girls, said that King had struck her on the head with a pistol.

Melvin Paul, a white man who worked at the saw mill, said that he saw King whip Benny Dorsey, and that King had asked the witness not to "know anything" about the whipping if he were called to court.

Threatens to Kill Witness

Other government witnesses testified having seen colored Americans tied to King's automobile and a merchant said the plantation boss bought plow lines from him just to tie them up.

Tom Davis, and a former employee of the physician-farmer, called in rebuttal by the state just before the case was closed, said he had been warned against testifying against King. George Brewster, defense witness, met him, he said, and told him if he testified against the physician "my life would be in my hands."

Admits Floggings.

Although he admitted that he flogged tenants on his plantation, King vigorously denied that he ever used force to keep laborers on the farm. King was on the witness stand for nearly two hours. Scores of whites testified that he had operated his plantation properly.

Indicted Once

King was indicted by a federal grand jury last December on the specific allegation of a department of justice agent that Sonney Dorsey was compelled to work on his farm without pay. The agent also charged in a complaint that several other men were involved.

Doctor King denied the charge, waived preliminary hearing and after the grand jury action, made bond for \$1000 for his appearance for trial.

Felton charges he was shanghaied while returning from Florida in January, 1926, when his automobile failed near the King farm. Fifty others worked with him under armed guards, he said, adding that

2 OTHER STATE WITNESSES HELD AS ACCESSORIES

Trio Graphically Describe Killing of Negro, Burial and Tell of Keeping Crime Concealed.

HOWARD ORDERS THREE ARRESTED

Death Farm Tenant Returned to Tower for Trial on Charge of Slaying Millard T. Allen.

Thomas Trollinger, Simpson road "death farm" tenant, was acquitted Thursday night of the murder of Owen Carruthers, negro, five hours after John Kitchens, introduced by the state as surprise eye-witness, had told the jury he saw Trollinger beat the negro to death with a hammer and bury the body in the cornfield on the farm.

Although the farmer was exonerated by the verdict of not guilty, three state witnesses Thursday night were incarcerated in Fulton tower without bond pending a grand jury investigation of the part they played in the

slaying and burial with a view of securing indictments against them charging them with being accessories after the fact.

The witnesses, John Kitchens, of 384 Newport street; L. B. Fuller, lessee of the "death farm," and F. L. McMichen, of Dallas, Ga., were ordered held by Judge G. H. Howard, of Fulton superior court, who presided at the trial.

The decision was made by Judge Howard after he heard the trio graphically picture details of the assassination, burial, disinterment and reburial of Carruthers on the night of July 3. They knew of the murder, had talked about it among themselves and tried to conceal the crime, according to their own testimony.

The verdict, "We, the jury, find the defendant, Thomas Trollinger, not guilty," was read in open court 45 minutes after the jurors filed from the jury box for deliberations. It was signed by J. P. Bevil, foreman.

Death Penalty Asked.

The death penalty has been demanded by the state after introduction of evidence tending to show that Trollinger beat the negro to death with a hammer. As the motive, the prosecution attempted to prove that Trollinger committed the slaying because Carruthers is alleged to have stolen some of Trollinger's liquor.

Defense counsel contended that Trollinger was the victim of a "liquor ring," who were attempting to "rail-road" him to his death in order to cover up their part in the crime.

Trollinger was represented by Attorney Len B. Guillebeau and the prosecution was conducted by Solicitor General John A. Boykin, assisted by Assistant Solicitor John H. Hudson.

The defendant, however, was not allowed to walk from the courtroom

out bond pending trial on an indictment charging him with the murder of Millard T. Allen on Sunday afternoon, October 23.

He was exonerated in municipal court several weeks ago following a preliminary hearing on a warrant charging him with the murder of Allen, at which time state witnesses testified that he shot in self-defense as Allen advanced upon him with a drawn knife.

Following the finding of the body of the negro, however, and the investigation which followed, the Fulton county grand jury was asked to return an indictment of murder against him in connection with the fatal shooting of Allen.

Quick Trial Sought.

Assistant Solicitor John Hudson announced that the case would be placed on trial at an early date "as soon as the witnesses could be rounded up." Attorney Guillebeau requested trial of the case today.

The jury was selected shortly before the noon recess of court, and after lunch the state launched its case. A bombshell was hurled into the case

when the state's third witness was called to the stand. He was John Kitchens, a surprise eyewitness to the slaying—an "ace in the hole" for the state.

Kitchens testified that he was at the Simpson road farm on the night of July 3 and had met Owen Carruthers, who was en route to Trollinger's home to purchase liquor. A few seconds after he left the negro, he said, he heard a shot and turned back toward Trollinger's home, from whence the sound had come.

He found Carruthers lying on the ground with Allen and Trollinger standing over him. Allen had a rifle in his hands and Trollinger told Allen not to fire again, because it would attract attention. The witness said Trollinger then produced a hammer and beat the negro over the head, striking him at least three times.

Kitchens said he was asked to aid in burying the negro, but he declined to do so, but promised to "watch out" for them while they interred the body. He went to the home of L. B. Fuller, farm tenant, instead of watching, he said, but knew the body had been buried.

The witness said that Trollinger asked him on several occasions never to say anything about what he had seen, and added that the defendant had later told him that the negro's body had been removed, because the first place was "not deep enough."

Kitchens explained that he had gone to Trollinger's home and had obtained a gallon of liquor. As he was leaving the farm he encountered Carruthers who wanted to know where he could get some liquor. Kitchens said he suggested Trollinger, and Carruthers left him headed in that direction. The shot was heard a few seconds later.

Undertaker Testifies.

J. P. Lawson, negro undertaker, described the marks of violence found on Carruthers' body. There was a wound over the right eye, the back of the skull had been beaten in and his right arm was broken. The wounds apparently were made by a "machinists' hammer which was likely to produce death.

Will Carruthers, uncle of the dead negro, told of the disappearance of Owen and related the search for him which proved of no avail until the body was unearthed.

On cross-examination by Attorney Guillebeau, the defense sought to prove that Fuller, Kitchens' employer, had shot at the negro on one occasion and that he had attempted to beat him on another. Numerous liquor deals were mentioned but the witness was reluctant in his answers.

Lieutenant J. M. Carroll, of the county police, told of the finding of the body in the corn field and of the investigation which followed.

The state rested at this point and Trollinger was placed on the stand to testify in his own defense. In a statement which consumed less than two minutes, he emphatically denied having any part in the slaying and burial of Carruthers.

"I am accused of murder," he began, "but I don't know anything about the slaying. I don't know how the negro came to his death. I had

an opportunity to escape from jail a few days ago, but I did not take it because I wanted a jury to pass on my case. I lived on that farm trying to make an honest living and I want you to believe me when I say that I don't know how the negro got killed, nor had any part in it. I am innocent," Trollinger said.

Salesman Testified.

The state chose to introduce additional evidence and called F. L. McMichen, former local automobile sales man, who testified that he was at the farm several days after the murder and that he watched for Trollinger and Allen while they removed the body from its first resting place near the creek bank into a grave in the cornfield. The body was disinterred about 10 o'clock by Trollinger and Allen and the witness and Fuller were keeping a watch so that their friend's acts were not discovered.

Trollinger told him that he must not tell of the slaying or burial or it "wouldn't be healthy for the first one who squealed," McMichen said. The witness said that Trollinger had accused Carruthers of stealing his liquor and had repeatedly declared that if he ever caught Carruthers he "wouldn't steal any more liquor."

Attorney Guillebeau attempted to get McMichen to confess to several alleged liquor transactions he had been connected in with Fuller and to prove that a heavy liquor traffic was being "run" from the farm by Fuller, Allen and others.

Trollinger was again placed on the witness stand for a supplementary statement and declared that the majority of the state witnesses were known by him to be liquor runners and that Fuller was under suspended sentences and under indictment in the court and was telling the untruthful story in hopes of getting out of "trouble."

Fuller Tells Story.

Fuller was then placed on the stand by the solicitor and said that Trollinger and Allen had told him that Allen shot the negro and that Trollinger hit him in the head with a hammer. Fuller corroborated McMichen's testimony regarding the removal and reinterment of the negro's body. He said that he would have told of the crime had he not feared for his life. He testified that he knew that Trollinger hid liquor on his farm on numerous occasions.

Trollinger appeared to be calm and collected throughout the trial. Seated with him at the defense table was his wife, and five children, the youngest of which was held in the arms of its mother, and the oldest a boy of approximately 13 years. A brother, H. Trollinger, and sister-in-law, Mrs. B. Trollinger, were also present in court as was Millard Allen's mother.

The defendant was dressed in overalls and a brown coat, wearing a pair of prisoners' heavy shoes. He frequently conferred with his attorney during the cross-examination of witnesses. A casual smile crossed his face as the verdict was read, and he was embraced by members of his family just before being led from the courtroom.

Eight panels of jurors were used in the selection of the jury, 47 persons being excused because they expressed the opinion that they were opposed to capital punishment. The following composed the trial jury: C. L. Adams, C. W. Walton, J. P.

Beryl, foreman; George D. Kitchens, D. G. Neal, G. P. Sasser, H. R. Lewis, L. G. Jordan, J. M. Turner and Sam R. Churchill.

TROLLINGER GIVEN FREEDOM BY JURY

Continued From First Page.

CHARLESTON SOUTH CAROLINA

JUN 6 1927

When Investigation Should Precede

A Negro who says his name is James Felton has told a tale, at Danville, Virginia, that when his automobile broke down in Georgia as he was traveling from Florida last January he was forcibly taken to a farm and caused to labor until he escaped two weeks ago. He further says that fifty other Negroes were with him, in the same plight, and that while he was there he "saw five prisoners murdered."

The New York World comments: "If it is true it reveals crimes which all decent people of the State will want to see punished," and with that opinion "decent people" everywhere will heartily agree.

How many persons of ordinary intelligence will believe the Negro's story? It is possible that fifty-one Negroes have been reduced to and held in slavery in a community of Georgia four or five months of this year, because anything is possible, but it is highly probable that if the story have a germ of truth it has been magnified 100 times.

It would not be possible anywhere in South Carolina to make slaves of half a hundred Negroes and hold them in slavery for months—and the white South Carolinians are much like the Georgians. There may be enough in Felton's yarn to call for investigation, and a New York newspaper would have done a service to the country in making the investigation. The investigation should have been made before emphasis was placed upon a tale that on its face must excite the suspicion of every man or common sense and common information.

Some newspapers have a singular disposition to swallow any story about the treatment of Negroes in the South, hook, line and sinker.

FIND BODIES OF NEGROES BURIED ON DEATH FARM

Horrible Tales of Brutal Floggings; and Sordid Happenings In Dead of Night Reveal Crimes

HOLD WHITE GEORGIANS

Authorities Draw Net Tighter With Disclosure of Sinister Activities Near Southern Metropolis

(Special to the St. Louis Argus) ATLANTA, Ga., Nov. 9: — Grim pictures of brutal flogging, sordid bootlegging transaction in the dead of the night and bitter feuds resulting in the death of at least two persons on the "death farm," grew out of an investigation started Saturday following the finding of a colored youth's body in a shallow grave on the farm. Startling disclosures are promised when the probe, which has been veiled with secrecy, is completed.

Uncover Sinister Crimes

Authorities are slowly piecing together the sinister purpose of the farm, thickly wooded and lonely, despite the fact that it is only two miles from the heart of Atlanta. Thursday, following information given by an anonymous party, searchers found the remains of Owen Carruthers buried in a cornfield. The youth who disappeared mysteriously in July at the time he was to give testimony in the trial of a white bootlegger, had died from a fracture of the skull, which physicians who examined the body said was inflicted by a blow from some heavy blunt instrument.

Seek Other Victims

Finding of Carruthers' body led officers for search of other victims as the anonymous report said that a number of Negroes had been murdered and secretly buried on the farm by L. B. Fuller, white.

John Peck, Saturday told the investigators that he had been severely beaten and three other Negroes had been blackjacked and slugged, the attacks occurring in the cornfield where Carruthers' body was found.

Three men were arrested in connection with the grim discovery made on the "death farm". They were Thomas Trollinger, white tenant on the farm who is also charged with the death of Millard T. Allen, white,

who was shot to death on the farm; L. B. Fuller, white, owner of the farm, and Will Burkes, who was employed at the farm.

Vigil Bring Kept

A vigil at the farm is being kept by the police in an effort to round up witnesses who are known to have frequented the farm. Up until a late hour Saturday night the officers were scouring the section for missing witnesses while others were being questioned at police headquarters and at the county jail.

No definite statement was forthcoming from the officials as to when they expected to resume their search for bodies of the other Negroes who, according to their information, are buried at the "death farm."

The authorities are apparently devoting their attention to getting their evidence in shape for the grand jury investigation before resuming the search.

BROOKLYN EAGLE

JUN 7 1927

WITNESSES SWEAR TO DEATH THREATS IN PEONAGE TRIAL

Tell Federal Jury of Murders and Whippings on Dr. King's Georgia Plantation.

Athens, Ga., June 7 (AP)—A picture of plantation negroes hoeing corn and picking cotton under threats of death and suffering personal violence when incurring the displeasure of their wealthy employer, has been held up to a Federal jury sitting in the trial of Dr. W. R. King, physician farmer, on charges of peonage.

Barnett Atwood, a white man who worked on Dr. King's Oglethorpe County farm, testified that he was struck down with a pistol for suggesting that he attend a barbecue on the farm.

Arwood said he mentioned the matter to Dr. King while at a well drawing water for livestock. His employer felled him with a pistol, he testified, and ended an argument by threatening "I'll shoot you."

An array of more than three-score witnesses, several summoned by Dr. King, was held in readiness today by opposing counsel.

One of the witnesses came from Danville, Va., with a story of cruel-

ties that last week caused Governor Clifford Walker to order an investigation. James Felton, a negro, told the Danville Chief of Police that about 50 negroes worked under guard on the King plantation and that five were slain.

Raymond Tyler, a negro, testified that he and four other negroes were whipped on one occasion by Dr. King and a companion.

WITNESSES SAY

WHIPPINGS GIVEN

Continued from First Page.

the indictment returned against him by a federal grand jury last December, with forcing Dorsey to remain on his farm and work without pay.

Introduction of testimony began after United States District Judge W. J. Tilson had denied a defense motion to quash the indictment, entered immediately upon completion of the jury. Counsel for Dr. King contended that the calling of a second grand jury after the first had failed to indict the defendant was without precedent.

District Attorney R. S. Deaver, however, told the court that the grand jury that indicted Dr. King was called primarily for other matters. A previous grand jury had refused to indict after hearing evidence in a department of justice agent who investigated alleged peonage conditions on Dr. King's farm.

The trial is expected to consume two or three days more. Approximately 100 witnesses have been summoned by both sides.

NEGRO LEAVES TO TAKE STAND.

Danville, Va., June 6.—(AP)—James Felton, a negro, who has made sensational charges of peonage in Oglethorpe county, Georgia, was today being taken by train to Athens, Ga., where he is to be given the opportunity of making "good" his story that he and about 50 other negroes were held under armed guard for more than a year on a farm operated by "Dr. King" in Oglethorpe county.

Felton supposedly is to be a witness in the trial of Dr. W. R. King, physician-farmer, who faces a charge of peonage in the United States district court beginning today.

The police declined to divulge when the negro left or his route stating that their lips were sealed by instructions of the department of justice. There is good reason to believe that he left there last midnight. Felton is reported to have expressed willingness to go although he was informed that the journey might have unpleasant consequences if he has not told the truth.

Labor-1927
Peonage

Georgia

Forced To Work While Guard

On Way From Fla. to W. Va. When Put to Work

Prodded Him With Rifle, James

Entire County Under Control of Dr. King

Felton Swears To Truth Of Story

(Felton's Affidavit)

I, James Felton, of the Township of Bluefield, West Virginia, being duly sworn according to law, depose and say:

My name is James Felton, son of Wm. Felton (now deceased) and Julia Felton, who was living on Route 4, Bluefield, W. Va., when I last heard from her.

About the last of December, 1925, I left West Palm Beach, Florida, on my way back home to Bluefield, W. Va., and about three o'clock on the afternoon of January 9, 1926, the rear end of my Ford car broke down about 2½ miles southwest of Athens, Ga., on Route No. 49. In a short while a middle-aged white man, who I learned later was a Dr. King, came along in a gray Cadillac automobile and spoke to me: "Hello, Jack, you seem to be having a little trouble. What's the matter?" I answered, "The trouble is in the rear end of my car and I'm out of money." "How'd you like to work for me a couple of weeks until I can have your car towed into Athens and fixed up for you so you can continue your trip?" "Yes, sir, I don't mind working any place for a while so I can get on home."

Dr. King then took me, with my suitcase containing a few clothes, in his automobile and turned right back on Route 49 and drove about eleven miles, then turned towards Jasper County, drove through Jasper County across the river into Oglethorpe County and to Lexington, the County seat. We drove around there until after dark, then drove out several miles along rough country roads, and finally reaching a big building out there on a farm Dr. King called out, "John Dowdy, here's another coon for you; take him into the commissary and give him a pair of overalls, a blue shirt, suit of heavy underwear and some heavy shoes. Take these clothes and his suitcase and burn, as you've done the rest of them."

When Dr. King then turned his back to leave I reached for a pistol that I had holstered under my left arm with the intention of shooting this John Dowdy, who seemed to be his colored overseer, when a voice from inside the building said, "Take it off him, John, and bring it here and let me see it." Looking around, I saw a Winchester rifle in the hands of a white man, who I learned later was Earl Moody, trained directly upon me, so I made no further effort, but let Dowdy take my pistol and other belongings and changed to the clothes that Dr. King had ordered him to give me. I was then instructed not to speak to anyone whom I should see there, under pain of death, unless it were one of the overseers, of whom I now remember nine. They were: John Dowdy (colored) and Frank Dowdy, his father; Berry Hales (colored), George Frooster (colored); Earl Moody, Geo. Taylor, E. R. Weaver, C. H. White, and Dr. King's brother or nephew whose name I do not know.

Some time after I had been on this farm, or about the last of March, 1926, three of the men held there and two women managed somehow to escape. They were hunted for several hours without being

found, but the next day the deputy sheriff of Oglethorpe County, John Paul by name, with some other deputies and the high sheriff, I think, brought these five persons back and told Dr. King, "Here are these sons of b—— that tried to get away from you; take them back and give them what they need." They were then given severe beatings and the next morning Dr. King came back and said that he was afraid to keep them. They weren't any good except to try to get away and he thought he'd better do away with them. He, himself, then shot one and killed one with an axe, John Dowdy killed one with an axe, and Dr. King's nephew shot two. I saw all of these killings and had to help take the bodies about two miles out, where a hole was dug and all five of the bodies put into it in one heap. I can go to this grave right now and will be glad to take anyone there under proper guard so that we will be able to get away again. After this killing two other men were taken away and said to be drowned. I did not see this done, but the men never returned to the farm. The river where they were said to be drowned was about eight miles from where we were.

I have scars now on my right hand which were made by John Dowdy pouring hot solder on me one day when Dr. King came to the field and said I was not working fast enough. My hand was burned terribly and pained me for several days almost unbearably, but sickness was no excuse for not working and we never knew what it was to quit work for rain or cold weather.

Last August I was whispering to a boy one night, asking him to write a letter for me, when in some way Frank Dowdy heard me and knocked me in the face with a pick handle which he carried around with him, knocking all my front teeth out. Several other men there have been beaten unmercifully about just whispering or speaking to one another at night, and some of them told me that they had been there for as long as ten years and had never been allowed to hold a conversation with anyone or have a moment's freedom from that farm. Everyone was beaten or punished in any way—the men and the women—at the whim of Dr. King or any of the overseers, sometimes by being lashed and sometimes by being branded.

There were on our farm 45 head of men and 30 head of women and I heard that there were other farms belonging to this same Dr. King that had more than this, and I think all of them were or are in Oglethorpe County, Georgia. This county is surrounded to a great part by a wire fence and is owned and absolutely controlled by Dr. King. A part of the time that I spent there we were leased to other farms under different overseers, but I think the owner was Dr. King.

Lexington is the county seat and is entered by only one railroad train from Athens, Ga.; the roads of the county being practically impassable in wet weather and avoided all the time, as they are exceedingly rough. Even the public officials of this town seem to be hired or working for Dr. King, as all seem to take orders from him.

I managed to escape one evening four weeks ago yesterday, which was on May 1, when we were sent after some mules that had got loose. I was hunted for a day or two in the swamp where I was hiding, but I kept pressing farther and farther into the thickets for several days, and finally came through into South Carolina and walked into Greenville on Sunday afternoon, May 8, and inquired for a branch of the N. A. A. C. P. at the colored drug store on Spring street of this city. Not finding a branch there, I kept on hunting, on up through South Carolina and into Charlotte and Winston-Salem, North Carolina, finally hearing that a branch was in Danville, Virginia, and I headed for here and arrived here on the early train about one o'clock yesterday morning, Sunday, May 29. This is the first time I have told my experience since my escape on May 1.

BROOKLYN CITIZEN

JUN 5 1927

Slavery Days Here

Not Over, According

To Negro Association

WASHINGTON, June 4 (United Press).—Intelligence agents of the Justice Department to-day began investigation of charges that Negroes are held in peonage on a farm in Oglethorpe County, Ga., and forced to work under armed guards.

The charges were made by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People based on information furnished by James Felton, a Negro who claims to have escaped from the farm and who is now held by State authorities at Danville, Va.

I left Bluefield, West Virginia, where I was born, for the first extended stay of any consequence in 1920, about the time of the railroad strike, on a transportation train for Philadelphia. After three years I left there in 1923 on another transportation to Miami, Florida, and worked for I. E. Stallings on a construction job until 1924, when I left Miami for West Palm Beach, Fla., with A. K. Lackey. It was from there with my Ford car and \$161.00 in cash that I left about the last of December, 1925, for my home in West Virginia. Taxes, gasoline and repair bills and living expenses had left me with only \$12.50 when my car broke down near Athens, Ga., on January 9. My taxes at one time on crossing the Monocogee River from Florida into Georgia was \$11.50.

This date of January 9, 1926, is the day on which my car broke down and I was taken up by Dr. King on the road near Athens, Georgia.

JAMES (X) FELTON.
his mark

Witness: DR. C. S. COWAN
State of Virginia,
City of Danville, to-wit:

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 30th day of May, 1927.
[Seal]

M. C. MARTIN,
Notary Public with Seal.
My commission expires March 4th, 1928.

Labos-1927

Peonage

George A

Forced To Work While Guard

On Way From Fla. to W. Va. When Put to Work

Prodded Him With Rifle, James

Entire County Under Control of Dr. King

Felton Swears To Truth Of Story

(Felton's Affidavit)

I, James Felton, of the Township of Bluefield, West Virginia, being duly sworn according to law, depose and say:

My name is James Felton, son of Wm. Felton (now deceased) and Julia Felton, who was living on Route 4, Bluefield, W. Va., when I last heard from her.

About the last of December, 1925, I left West Palm Beach, Florida, on my way back home to Bluefield, W. Va., and about three o'clock on the afternoon of January 9, 1926, the rear end of my Ford car broke down about 2 1/2 miles southwest of Athens, Ga., on Route No. 49. In a short while a middle-aged white man, who I learned later was a Dr. King, came along in a gray Cadillac automobile and spoke to me: "Hello, Jack, you seem to be having a little trouble. What's the matter?" I answered, "The trouble is in the rear end of my car and I'm out of money." "How'd you like to work for me a couple of weeks until I can have your car towed into Athens and fixed up for you so you can continue your trip?" "Yes, sir, I don't mind working any place for a while so I can get on home."

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mark

Witness: DR. C. S. COWAN

State of Virginia,
City of Danville, to-wit:

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 30th day of May, 1927.

[Seal]

M. C. MARTIN,
Notary Public with Seal.

My commission expires March 4th, 1928.

JUN 4 1927

JUN 8 1927

GEORGIA TO PROBE PEONAGE CHARGES ON 'PEONAGE FARM'

2 TELL OF LASHINGS ON 'PEONAGE FARM'

Governor Acts on Fugitive Negro's Story of Doctor's "Slave Farm"

5 VICTIMS REPORTED SLAIN

Atlanta, Ga., June 4 (AP).—A negro laborer's charge that he was held in peonage on a Georgia plantation for seventeen months with fifty other negroes, and that five of them were slain, has caused Governor Walker to order a rigid investigation.

Governor Walker said he placed little credence in a story James Felton told Danville, Va., police. The negro's charges were denied in detail by Dr. W. R. King, a prominent physician-farmer, whose trial on peonage charges is scheduled to begin Monday at Athens, Ga.

Felton told Danville police he escaped from a Georgia farm owned by a "Doctor King" about two weeks ago after being detained by armed guards for more than a year.

Dr. W. R. King was indicted by a Federal Grand Jury last December on the allegation of a Department of Justice agent that Sonney Dorsey, a negro, was compelled to work on his farm without pay. The agent also charged another negro and several white men were involved.

Dr. King denied the charge, waived preliminary hearing and after the Grand Jury action, made bond of \$1,000 for his appearance for trial.

Felton charged he was shanghaied while returning from Florida in January, 1926, when his automobile failed near the King farm. Fifty other negroes worked with him under armed guards, he said, adding that some of them knew of the alleged slayings. He promised to point out five graves on the plantation if given the protection of the State of Georgia.

White Man and Negro Swear Dr. King Whipped Men on Georgia Plantation

GOT ATLANTA PRISONERS

Took Them Bound in Automobile, Witnesses Say

ATHENS, Ga., June 7 (A. P.).—Further testimony to whipping of Negroes on the Oglethorpe County farm of Dr. W. R. King was given in United States District Court to-day in the trial of Dr. King for peonage.

Ed Clark, Negro, who said Dr. King got him out of the stockade in Atlanta, swore that five Negroes who escaped from the saw mill on the farm were whipped by Dr. King with a piece of buggy trace.

"Did Mr. King ever whip you?" the Federal attorney asked.

"Yes, sir," was the reply.

"What with?"

"A piece of buggy trace."

J. E. George, a white man, who worked in a garage at Moxeys, Ga., in 1925, testified that on one occasion he saw five Negroes being taken from the Atlanta City Prison, tied in Dr. King's automobile. A. J. Gillen, white merchant at Moxeys, said Dr. King had gone into his store for a pair of plough lines to tie the hands of the Negroes.

Lewis Andrews, white, formerly in charge of King's sawmill, sought to refute testimony given yesterday by Raymond Tyler, a Negro, about conditions there. Andrews, called as a Government witness, testified on cross-examination that bunks were provided to sleep on and that good food was served. Tyler said that only a stack of hay was provided to sleep on and that there was little to eat.

Melvin Paul, a white man who worked at the sawmill, testified that he saw Dr. King whip a Negro named Benny Dorsey and that Dr. King had asked the witness not to "know anything" about the whipping if he were called into court. It is on the specific charge of holding Dorsey in bondage that Dr. King is being tried.

The Government rested its case without placing on the stand James Felton, a Negro farm hand, whose statements to officers in Danville, Va., about alleged peonage conditions on the farm preceded the opening of the trial. Felton was here, but B. S. Weaver, United States Attorney, did not an-

nounce why he was not placed on the stand or whether he would be used in rebuttal.

Interracial Commission, Southern Body, Complained About Farm

Testimony regarding conditions on the farm of Dr. King was turned over to Federal authorities in Atlanta a year and a half ago by the Interracial Commission, an organization sponsored by prominent Southerners. It was recalled yesterday by Clark Howell Foreman, temporarily with the Phelps Stokes Fund at No. 101 Park Avenue.

Mr. Foreman's uncle, Clark Howell, is publisher of the Atlanta Constitution, and his father, R. L. Foreman, is President of the Rotary Club of Atlanta.

"While I was Secretary to the Georgia Committee on Interracial Co-operation," he said, "a Negro man came to my office with a story of cruelty and co-operation between the county officials and the person who held him captive. The Interracial Commission, not having sufficient money to conduct a private investigation, turned over to the Federal authorities the man and all his evidence. This was in the winter of 1925.

"I have forgotten the man's name. He may have been the Tyler mentioned in The World of this morning. His story was that, having been arrested for a very trivial offense, he was sentenced to thirty days in the Fulton County stockade. When he had almost finished serving his sentence, he said he was approached by a white man who offered him a job with good wages on a farm near Atlanta. He then told that he was taken in a truck, with several other Negroes from the stockade, about fifty miles away to the farm and sawmill of a man whom he called Dr. King. He did not know the exact location of the farm but said it was near Lexington."

FIGHT TO FREE NEGROS HELD AS PEONS IN SOUTH

PEONAGE CHARGES GO TO WASHINGTON

By ART SHIELDS

The escape of James Felton, fugitive peon, from a cotton plantation near Lexington, Georgia, may lead to a general probe of peonage in the South. The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People is stepping into the case and intends to bring Felton to New York to give his story the widest possible hearing.

Five other Negro peons who attempted to escape were knocked on the head with axes and then shot, says Felton. He was more lucky. After three days in a swamp without food he came to firm land and finally reached Danville, Va.

"They had 45 men and 25 women when I left," he said. "Some of them worked on the farm and others in

the sawmill. We got the same food three times a day, peas and corn bread. We could not sing, write letters or talk, and when we did not work fast enough we were whipped with a strap."

The Negro's hands are badly scarred. Hot Babbitt metal was poured over them to make them work faster, he says.

Hoover Blesses Peonage

Reports of Negro peonage in the Mississippi delta are scoffed at by Herbert Hoover, secretary of the department of Commerce. "Without foundation," he calls them. The reports were made by Walter White, assistant secretary of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, after an extended tour of the flooded area.

If Hoover will talk to General Curtis T. Green, commander of the Mississippi National Guard Troops, in the flood zone, he will get abundant evidence of Negro slavery. Green talked freely to White.

Negro refugees—who make up 80 per cent of the flood sufferers—will be returned only to their former landlords, on identification by the landlords, the general said.

N. Y. WORLD

JUN 2 1927

PEONAGE CHARGES GO TO WASHINGTON

Federal Officer at Danville Sends In Negro's Story— Expects Investigation

FELTON NAMES OPPRESSOR
Seventy Persons Held on Georgia Farm, He Asserts

Special Despatch to The World
DANVILLE, Va., June 1.—The story of James Felton, Negro, who says he recently escaped from peonage in Georgia, has been communicated to the United States Department of Justice in Washington by Champe Barksdale, United States Commissioner here, in the belief that the Government is

better prepared than any other agency to determine the truth or expose the falsity of the story.

"I assume that the Government will refer the matter to the Federal Attorney of the Georgia district," Mr. Barksdale said, "or an agent may be sent here."

In the meantime Felton remains voluntarily in detention here though he betrayed anxiety to-day to be freed.

Felton told The World correspondent this afternoon the name of the man who, he says, holds seventy colored men and women in peonage in Georgia. Felton calls him Dr. King, but does not know the given name. The plantation is near Lexington and is served by a small railway. The nearest city of size, he says, is Athens, fifty-two miles away.

The name of the deputy sheriff who Felton charges is cognizant of peonage conditions is John Paul.

Felton said he was in peonage one year, four months and fourteen days. He escaped two weeks ago through a swamp and went without food three days.

"They had forty-five men and twenty-five women when I left," The Negro said. "Some of them worked on the farm and some in the sawmill. We got the same food three times a day, peas and corn bread. We could not sing, write letters or talk, and when we did not work fast enough we were whipped with a strap."

"These burns," he said, extending his hands and revealing livid scars, "were caused by pouring hot Babbitt on them in the sawmill when I did not work fast enough."

Displaying gaps between the teeth of the upper and lower jaws, he said the teeth had been beaten out by a guard.

The five men Felton claims to have seen shot and hit by an ax were killed, he says, because their plot to escape was discovered. All were killed, he insists, at the same time. Two others disappeared and never returned.

Felton's peculiar gaze, which has led some to believe he is mentally unsound, is due, he says, to working underground in West Virginia mines. He is of robust physique, talks better than the average Negro and knows about the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, to officers of which he would like to tell his story.

He is prepared to return to Georgia only under official protection.

Labor - 1927
Peonage

Georgia

PEONAGE IN THE SOUTH A DISGRACE TO THE NATION

Negro World
New York
THE Federal jury at Athens, Ga., has just failed to indict Dr. W. R. King, a white farmer, of peonage, although the evidence as reported in the New York World appears to us strong enough to have warranted conviction. The man, James Felton, who escaped from the farm to Danville, Va., where he told of his enforced servitude and bad treatment, and taking part in the murder by King of five Negroes, after being taken to Athens and showing the officials the place where the murdered men are said to have been buried, was returned to Danville as mysteriously as he had been spirited to Athens, but he was not called as a witness by the Federal jury and the alleged burying place of the murdered five as pointed out by him was not investigated. It looks as if the Federal jury had whitewashed Dr. King. The facts should be got by those interested in breaking up peonage practices and it is hoped the Department of Justice will get the facts.

In 'The Negro World of June 4 we published a letter on peonage in the Mississippi Delta which we reproduce here, as it is only by publicity that peonage abuses can be brought to the attention of the authorities. Our correspondent said:

To the Editor of The Negro World:

There must be some way to stop the horrible practice of peonage as it is practiced by the whites in the Mississippi delta. If one is to judge by the conditions now existing, there are many Negroes who hardly know that they are free.

Negroes are practically held in bondage as the servants and laborers of the whites. If a man wants to change his place, he is not allowed to take anything with him except his clothes. It does not matter how long he has worked or what he has accumulated, all must be left behind.

If a Negro appears who tries to enlighten the others, he either disappears over night or he is arrested and put into jail. Thus, those who would bring light to their brothers are silenced. It is the duty of the Negro in the North to agitate until this condition is thoroughly exposed, and perhaps a remedy will come with publicity.

▲ MEMBER OF THE U. N. I. A.,
Gulfport, Miss.

Those who know the facts in any specific peonage case should write them out and see that the statement is placed in the hands of some reliable person or organization which in turn would see that it was brought to the attention of the Federal Department of Justice. It is dangerous business, exposing peonage abuses, but the only way to get at them and stamp them out is to expose them.

Government Witness Shamefully Treated By Southern Officers

Former Black Georgian, Who Charged Peonage Practiced On King's Farm In Cracker State, Intimidated—Alleges U.S. Marshal and Peace Officers Threatened His Life If He Did Not Retract Former Affidavit—Returns To Virginia After Mock Trial.

(By The Associated Negro Press)

House of Representatives
For 2 years
Danville, Va.—How he was separated from the U. S. deputy marshal who carried him to Georgia and how he was forced to retract his former charges by officers of the law, were related in an affidavit made here Thursday by James Felton, who charged that peonage was being practiced on Dr. W. R. King's farm in Georgia and was carried back to the state, June 5, as a witness for the government against Dr. King.

In a previous affidavit Felton declared that he had seen five men killed on Dr. King's Georgia farm and had helped to bury them. Upon his arrival in Georgia he was taken to a U. S. Deputy O. S. Mayberry by Georgia officers who sought to intimidate him at all times and never missed an opportunity to hurl vile epithets at him and threaten to "blow his brains out."

According to Felton's affidavit to the grave but the marshal took his foot, pushed aside a little dirt, then turned to me very threateningly and said, 'Now look here, you've got to come clean about this thing right now—did you ever see or hear of any killings around here or help bury anybody at any time?' Being alone, and absolutely helpless in the hands of two armed men where probably no friends knew where I was, I answered meekly: No, sir. 'All right then,' he said. 'You'd better stick to that and not tell any more G--- d--- lies about it.'

On the following morning, which was Tuesday, Felton further declared that he was taken before some lawyers and was asked whether anything was found down on the King farm and whether he ever saw anybody killed down there. Remembering the admonition of the previous day, he denied that he had seen anything happen on Dr. King's farm and declared that he had told the story up in Virginia to keep from being arrested on vagrancy.

Now that Felton is out of the land of the enemy he has repeated the charges made against Dr. King, and while he realizes that his testimony before the Georgia district attorney will render him helpless to do anything to clear up the case and punish the Georgian, he is hoping that in some way the Georgia doctor will be brought to trial, and justice will be meted out to him. Anyway, Felton is back in Virginia and never wants to go to Georgia again.

BROOKLYN EAGLE

JUN 4 1927

GEORGIA GOVERNOR PROBES SLAVE FARM ALLEGED SLAYINGS

Places Little Credence, However, in Negro's Tale of Peonage and Five Killings.

Atlanta, June 4 (AP)—A negro laborer's charge that he was held in peonage on a Georgia plantation for 17 months with 50 other negroes and that five of them were slain has caused Governor Clifford Walker to order a rigid investigation.

Governor Walker said he placed little credence in a story James Felton told Danville, Va., police and the negro's charges were denied in detail by Dr. W. R. King, a prominent physician-farmer, whose trial on peonage charges is scheduled to begin Monday at Athens, Ga.

Dr. King operates a farm of about 400 acres near Lexington, Ga., in Oglethorpe, one of the largest counties in the State.

Dr. King Indicted Last Year.

Dr. W. R. King was indicted by a Federal Grand Jury last December on the specific allegation of a Department of Justice agent that

Sonney Dorsey, a negro, was com-pelled to work on his farm without pay. The agent also charged in a complaint that another negro and several white men were involved.

Dr. King denied the charge, waived preliminary hearing and after the Grand Jury action made bond of \$1,000 for his appearance for trial. Felton charged he was shanghaied while returning from Florida in January, 1926, when his motorcar broke down near the King farm. Fifty other negroes worked with him under armed guards, he said, adding that some of them knew of the alleged slayings. He promised to point out five graves on the plantation if given the protection of the State of Georgia.

Commenting on the negro's story, Dr. King told the Associated Press over long distance telephone that he obtained Felton's release from Atlanta police in May, 1926, but that after idling around his farm several days the negro left.

Dr. King said he had offered \$50 reward for the negro's arrest on charges of larceny.

FELTON IS FORCED TO RETRACT

Peonage Victim Was Intimidated And Threatened

IS BACK IN DANVILLE

Special to Journal and Guide
Danville, Va., June 28.—How he was intimidated and forced to retract his story of peonage conditions on the farm of Dr. W. King, of Oglethorpe County, Ga., when returned to that state presumably to appear as a witness for the Government in the trial of Dr. King at Athens, Ga., recently is told in an affidavit by James Felton, who has been returned to this city.

Felton declares that he was taken from the custody of the Danville officer who took him to Athens under Federal deputation and turned over to the local U. S. Marshall and his son, who were plainly hostile toward him and forced him to repudiate his original story. Other persons in sympathy with Dr. King openly threatened to do Felton bodily harm, he states, even in the presence of

Felton's affidavit reads as follows:

I, James Felton, being duly sworn according to law, depose and say that the following is true to my own knowledge:

That I left Danville, Va., on Sunday night, June 5, 1927, at about 11 o'clock, in the custody of Police Officer O. S. Mayberry, who was deputized as a Federal officer, and reached Athens, Ga., about 10:30 o'clock the next morning, to serve as a government witness in the trial of Dr. King who was charged with running a peonage farm in Oglethorpe County, Georgia, and who I had seen commit and direct five murders of human beings on this farm about the last of March 1926.

Federal court was in session when we reached Athens but our case was not up and I was told that I would be taken that afternoon down to the King farm where I had witnessed these murders while I was held in peonage there under Dr. King in 1926. Before leaving the courtroom building while there in one of the little side offices Scott Jackson, a deputy sheriff and brother of the high sheriff, Walter Jackson, said to the U. S. Marshall who had me in charge, "Why don't you take that nigger out here about two miles from town and take your pistol and blow the black son of a b...s brains out? That's what he needs for coming down here with that G.... d.... lie." As I had been separated from officer Mayberry ever since we first got to the courthouse building and could not see anybody that did not seem to be in sympathy with Dr. King and very bitter towards me I almost wished then that I had never been brought back down there for any testimony at all.

Later on though about 2 p. m. on Monday, June 6, the U. S. Marshall and his son, who was acting as deputy, took me alone in a Ford touring car down to the King farm about 47 miles down through the country and in the way directed by me to the spot where last year I helped bury the five bodies in one hole that had been murdered by and under the direction of Dr. King. Fresh dirt around the place showed me that recent digging had been done and a wagon track showed nearby that a wagon of some kind had been brought near this spot. I felt certain then after seeing all this that nothing would be found in the grave but the Marshall took his foot and pushed aside a little dirt, then turned to me very threateningly and said, "Now, look here, you've got to come clean about this thing right now—DID you ever see or hear of any killings around here or help bury anybody at any time?" Being alone, and absolutely helpless in the hands of two armed men where probably no friends know where I was, I answered meekly, "No, sir." "All right

then," he says, "you'd better stick to that and not tell any more G.... d.... lies about it." I said, "All right, sir." We got back to Athens safely about 6 o'clock, and I was imprisoned until Tuesday morning.

Sometime that morning the Marshall came and took me before some lawyers, all from Georgia, it seemed, and in his presence and before his son I was asked whether we found anything down on the King farm where we had gone and whether I had really ever seen any murders down there as I had told officers and others in Danville under oath. I felt forced to give the same answer before the Marshall here that I had given him down at the farm the afternoon before, so I told them that I hadn't seen anything and we did not find anything. They then asked me why I had told that tale up in Danville, Va., and I told them that I told it to keep from being arrested for vagrancy. Some of them smiled at this and they kept me around there for some time until early in the af-

BROOKLYN EAGLE

JUN 9 1927

NOT GUILTY OF PEONAGE.

A jury of Georgians in a United States Court has settled legally the question whether a certain Oglethorpe County farmer is guilty of peonage. He isn't. To be sure, he testified himself that he had beaten negroes for being "sassy." And witnesses for the Government testified that their lives had been threatened if they bore witness against the accused. One negro, who escaped to Virginia but was taken back, is said to have "recanted" his story that he knew of five victims who were killed for trying to escape. This man had had his front teeth knocked out and had burns on his body. He had probably inflicted these injuries on himself. No other theory is now tenable.

Another chapter is added to the long tale of perfectly honest efforts of the Federal Department of Justice

to end peonage, which is virtually slavery. The best people in Georgia are unquestionably anxious to have this end accomplished. The first evidence in this Oglethorpe case was handed over to the Government by the Interracial Commission, of which Clark Howell Foreman, a nephew of the editor of the Constitution and a son of the president of Atlanta's Rotary Club, was secretary. Mr. Foreman is quoted as saying, "All the leading citizens of the South are eager to co-operate with the Federal authorities

in purging the South of all such gruesome situations."

But Georgia has rural sections where the sentiment of condonement is general. A Federal agent may be in earnest. A Federal Judge may be just and sincere. But the United States Constitution grants to every accused person the benefit of a trial by a jury of the vicinage, and a jury does what it pleases.

That, by the way, is the strongest argument against what is called anti-lynching legislation. With the National Constitution as it stands convictions where sentiment is against the law are unlikely or even impossible. Which is precisely the same difficulty that the Dry enforcers are facing. But, frankly, we do not believe that the people of the United States want the Constitution changed in this particular. Trial by jury, with all its disadvantages, is the best of bulwarks for the personal liberty of Americans.

TRAMPS FROM POENAGE

FROM GEORGIA TO VIRGINIA TO ESCAPE BRUTAL SLAVERY—COLORED MAN DECLARES HE CAN TRACE GRAVE WHERE HE HAD TO BURY A COLORED WOMAN PEON KILLED BY GUARD WITH AN AXE

Danville, Va., May 30, 1927—Local police authorities have forwarded to Governor Walker of Georgia a full draft of the story and here by James Felton, thirty-one, colored, who asserts he was kept in bondage on a 10,000-acre farm in Georgia, where he and approximately fifty other men have been subjected to brutal treatment during their alleged peonage.

Felton was picked up here in famished condition and expressed willingness to remain in detention pending an official check-up of his story. He told that story five times and was subjected to rigid questioning. A few minor discrepancies were noted, but there was no fundamental contradiction.

He gave the police the name of the place where he alleges peonage is being practiced, the name of the man owning the estate and various references in Florida and West Virginia. This information Felton declines to make public, having been told to withhold it lest publicity handicap the Georgia executive, who is reported to be conducting a crusade against peonage.

Felton told the authorities he had assisted in digging five graves for colored men who were murdered, and says he can lead the way to them. One of the victims, a woman, he says, he saw struck down with an axe. He declared he had been in virtual

slavery since last January and that he escaped from one of fifteen guards May 15 when he was sent with others to round up mules. He made his way North on foot.

Auto Broke Down

His detention, he says, began the day his dilapidated automobile broke down near the plantation while he was driving from Florida. The breakdown was so serious that new parts were needed. He did not have any money and he was pondering what to do when a horseman approached him and offered to give him work so that he might accumulate funds to repair his car.

The car was taken from him, also his clothes and he was put to work in overalls and did not draw any money, he charges. All tasks were enforced, he claims. Most of his front teeth are missing. They were knocked out by a guard armed with a club.

Felton said that the servitude practiced on the farm was known to the Sheriff of the county, who frequently visited the place.

Felton will remain until the Georgia authorities have sent some answer to the communication which has been forwarded to Gov. Walker, whose term expires July 2.

PEONAGE IN GEORGIA

JAMES FELTON, a Negro who has voluntarily submitted to detention at Danville, Va., tells a shocking story of peonage on a farm in Georgia. He says he was shanghaied to this place in January, when his automobile broke down as he was traveling north from Florida, and forced to labor without pay until he escaped about two weeks ago. With him, he says, in the same predicament as he was, were 50 other Negroes. While he was there, he says, he saw five prisoners murdered. A frequent visitor to the farm, he says, was a County Sheriff. It is hard to see how this story can be ignored by the Governor of Georgia, to whom it has been sent. If it is true, it reveals crimes which all decent people of the State will want to see punished. If it is not true, it is vital that the fair name of the State be vindicated. An investigation is in order, and one which will spare no pains to get at the facts.

TRIBUNE

JUN 11 1927

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Sonney Dorsey, a negro, was com-the marshall in whose custody he pelled to work on his farm without was. Felton's affidavit reads as follows: I, James Felton, being duly sworn according to the following is and say that the following is true to my own knowledge: on Grand jury action made bond of \$1,000 for his appearance for trial. That I left Danville, Va., at Felton charged he was shanghaied while returning from Florida in January, 1926, when his motorcar broke down near the King farm. Fifty other negroes worked with him under armed guards, he said, adding that some of them knew of the alleged slayings. He promised to point out five graves on the plantation if given the protection of the State of Georgia.

Commenting on the negro's story, Dr. King told the Associated Press over long distance telephone that he obtained Felton's release from Atlanta police in May, 1926, but that after idling around his farm several days the negro left.

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TRIBUNE

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It is hard to see how this story can be ignored by the Governor of Georgia, to whom it has been sent. If it is true, it reveals crimes which all decent people of the State will want to see punished. If it is not true, it is vital that the fair name of the State be vindicated. An investigation is in order, **and one** which will spare no pains to get at the facts.

Labor-1927

Peonage

Felton's Peonage Story

The United States Department of Justice has taken prompt cognizance of the horrible story of peonage James Felton, one-time West Virginia coal miner, has brought out of Georgia. An agent of the department has been to Danville, gotten Felton's story and reported back to Washington. The man, Dr. W. R. King, whose farm from which the alleged peonage-victim states he escaped four weeks ago, is scheduled to go on trial before the United States District Court convening at Athens, Ga., this week upon an indictment returned last November by a federal grand jury on charges of peonage. The indictment indicates that Dr. King still pursued in his heinous business even with a federal indictment hanging over his head.

If the Department of Justice exhibits the vigor in the prosecution of this case that the circumstances demand, it will check Felton's story with the evidence already assembled against Dr. King and institute its probe into every angle of this sickening recital. It is reported that the accused will summon more than ninety witnesses when he goes on trial on the pending indictment. He could as easily summon a thousand. A man who operates peonage farms in collusion with sheriffs, constables and other pigmy law officers of his county, besides he owns boot and sole not alone the illiterate Negroes of his plantation but the equally illiterate poor-whites of his locality. These flunkies will swear for him, by him and up to him in any devilish business in which he may engage. A whole regiment of them will perjure themselves for him as readily as ninety.

There will be those—far away from the scene—who will be disposed to discredit this man's story. They will brand it a fabrication of a diseased mind. It is a horrible tale to credit to a civilization of vaunted eminence and righteousness, we admit. It is a brutal recital to write against the name of a nation which is at the moment seeking with armed forces to instruct foreign and sovereign nations like China and Nicaragua of the sacredness of American lives and property. But, remembering the Williams' peonage-murder farm of recent history and the New York World's contemporaneous expose of shocking peonage conditions in Georgia and Florida, the American people will in the main attach more than ordinary credence to Felton's story. Every accused, under the law, is innocent until proved guilty, but public sentiment demands also that the accuser be accorded every opportunity to make out a case. Felton's charges are too grave to be lightly dismissed by the federal government. Stories of peonage are coming out of the far South with increasing regularity. These murders are not finding recordation in the yearly lynching figures. These alleged conditions are opaque to the influence of interracial commissions. The federal police power

must be exerted against them with satisfying vigor.

While this country spends millions to carry a veneered Christianity to so-called heathens who don't want it and who are in actual practice more civilized than their tutor-nation, within a comparatively few miles of the Capitol at Washington, under the Stars and Stripes where we have all the business in the world of "protecting American lives and property," human beings are enslaved and accorded unthinkable barbarities. We sympathize with the alleged heathens when they look askance at the American white man's brand of Christianity and type of Religion, and the nations of the Old World rightly have a sneer coming to them when we nauseate them with our pretenses of eminent culture.

N. Y. WORLD
JUN 1 1927

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It is hard to see how this story can be ignored by the Governor of Georgia, to whom it has been sent. If it is true, it reveals crimes which all decent people of the State will want to see punished. If it is not true, it is vital that the fair name of the State be vindicated. An investigation is in order, and one which will spare no pains to get at the facts.

NEW YORK TIMES

JUN 7 1927
TESTIFY TO PEONAGE
ON FARM IN GEORGIA

Laborers Say Dr. King Forced
Them to Work Without Pay—
Some Tell of Beatings.

ATHENS, Ga., June 6 (AP).—Testimony that laborers on the farm of Dr. W. R. King, prominent physician-farmer of Oglethorpe County, were forced to work without pay, whipped and threatened with jail sentences if they ran away, was introduced by the Government today at the trial of Dr. King on a charge of peonage.

Georgia.

Mrs. Bell Arwood one of the first witnesses called by the prosecution, said she and her husband worked some time on Dr. King's farm, but that he never mentioned pay to them and threatened to put them in jail if they left. Arwood, her husband, said he once was arrested by a Deputy Sheriff who charged he owed Dr. King money, but that he never was shown the warrant for his arrest and after starting to work for the physician, never gave bond for his release.

Once, Arwood related, he was struck on the head with a pistol by Dr. King when he asked permission to attend a barbecue while working on the farm.

Raymond Taylor, a negro, and former member of an Atlanta semi-professional baseball team, the Black Crackers, testified that 4 Dr. King "bought" him out of jail in Atlanta to work at his saw mill and promised him a "good bed, shelter and food," he and four other negroes were taken to a small house near the saw mill, he said, but after several days when they found their only bed to be a pile of hay on the floor, they left.

They were overtaken by Dr. King and W. G. Kell, the negro asserted, stripped of their clothing and severely whipped. Later, Tyler said, he was arrested and jailed at Lexington.

The story of the whipping was corroborated by J. M. Nicholson, a former clerk in a merchandise store at Moxley, Ga., who said he witnessed them, and by Benny Dorsey, one of Tyler's four negro companions.

Dr. King is charged specifically in the indictment, returned against him by a Federal Grand Jury last December, with forcing Dorsey to remain on his farm and work without pay.

NEW YORK CITY
SUN and GLOBE
JUN 9 1927

DROP PEONAGE CHARGE

Georgia Doctor Freed by Jury
on First Ballot.

ATHENS, Ga., June 9 (A. P.).—Dr. W. R. King, former Oglethorpe county plantation owner and physician, was acquitted by a jury in Federal Court here last night on a charge of peonage.

The jury of farmers and business men deliberated about an hour and a half, but said after being dismissed that only one ballot was necessary to reach the verdict, the time being spent in discussion of the case before polling.

The physician specifically was charged with having held a negro, Ben Dorsey, in a state of bondage. The indictment was returned last December, after Department of Justice agents

had made an investigation on his farm.

The physician took the stand in his own defense yesterday. For more than two hours he was questioned by attorneys, and while denying that conditions of peonage existed on his farm or that laborers working for him were mistreated, he admitted that on four occasions he had whipped negroes, among them Dorsey.

Nearly fifty witnesses were placed on the stand during the trial by the Government to support its charge that laborers were held on the farm against their will and that they were mistreated and not paid.

N. Y. WORLD
JUN 4 1927

U. S. AGENT DOUBTS PEONAGE CHARGES

Negro's Tale Too Parrot-Like,
Inspector Feels, but Takes
Transcript to Washington

FELTON SWEARS TO TRUTH

Georgia Governor Orders Inquiry, Despite Scepticism

Special Despatch to The World
DANVILLE, Va., June 3.—Inspector Boddice of the Department of Justice left here to-night for Washington, carrying with him the sworn story of James Felton, Negro, who charges that peonage is practiced in Oglethorpe County, Ga., and that he escaped from servitude there recently. While Boddice declined to anticipate a formal report to superior officers, the World learns from other sources that he was not greatly impressed with Felton's story. He thought it likely that the Federal authorities in Georgia would be asked to investigate.

At Boddice's interview with Felton the police officers who have heard the Negro's previous stories, and who all of them agreed in every particular. It was this, the Federal Inspector is quoted as having said, that constituted the main weakness of the

The sequence of the story. The words were very similar, and his method of telling the story.

The Department Of Justice Farce

The United States Department of Justice, the one agency of the Federal Government whose reputation for efficiency and sincerity has long been on the downward grade, scored a complete vacuum when it set out to "prosecute" Dr. W. R. King, of Oglethorpe County, Ga., on charges of peonage. Dr. King was quickly acquitted upon his recent trial at Athens, and in the light of the conduct of the Federal district attorney it would seem that the verdict was foreordained.

It is pertinent to ask in connection with this Georgia peonage case, why was it that James Felton, who recently told the police of Danville, Va., a horrible story of alleged peonage conditions on the farm of a Dr. King, of Oglethorpe County, from which he claimed to have escaped, was not put on the witness stand by the Government in Dr. King's trial after having been returned to the vicinage of the trial court presumably for that purpose? To the police of Danville Felton related a story of untold cruelties, of having seen five murders on the farm of Dr. King and of having helped bury the victims. He told that story without having the slightest knowledge that at the very moment he was speaking a Dr. King of Oglethorpe County, Ga., was scheduled to come to trial the following week on charges identical with the revelations he himself was then making. Here was a story absolutely independent of the evidence already in hand, yet in almost perfect substantiation of it, told under oath with the offer to return voluntarily to Georgia and point out physical evidence in corroboration. Can anyone conceive of a conscientious prosecutor hearing of alleged substantiation of charges upon which he is about to prosecute a defendant falling to welcome the new turn of events, and not using every possible means to make the best use of it? Can anyone conceive of a prosecutor doing his sworn duty and failing to use as a witness, in open court before a judge and jury and under ample protection of his life and limb, the person uttering the alleged corroboration of the charges upon which the defendant is being tried? Why was Felton taken from the custody of the Danville officer, who under Federal deputization took him to Athens, and given over to the United States Marshall of Georgia and other officers of that district to be examined in an atmosphere patently menacing to the witness and sympathetic toward the defendant?

During the trial of Dr. King the press gave out the story that Felton had repudiated his story. Is there any wonder that he repudiated it? Did the Federal district attorney seek in any way to hold Felton's story intact? Why did he not assure this defenseless Negro of every protection of the Federal Government while in the jurisdiction of the court of which the prosecutor was an officer? The sending of this man Felton to the King farm in charge of

only two local U. S. marshalls and the failure to permit the Danville officer to accompany the party seems to have been deliberately planned for the purpose of creating a setting in which Felton would be forced to retract his original story.

Dr. King has been declared guiltless of the charges by a jury of his peers, but it is plain that the Government's prosecution of him was little less than a farce.

TELLS HOW FIVE WERE KILLED ON BIG FARM

James Felton Escapes From Peonage Horror and Tells Story to Federal Authorities.

BULLETIN!

ATHENS, GA., June 8.—Dr. W. R. King, farmer of Oglethorpe County, was indicted by a federal grand jury here last November on charges of peonage and is scheduled to go to trial at the term of United States District Court opening here this week.

ATLANTA, Ga., June 8.—Governor Walker, Friday ordered a rigid investigation into charges made by James Felton, aged 31, who alleged, when arrested in Danville, Va., on last Saturday night, that he had been held in peonage on a Georgia farm owned by Dr. King, since last January. Governor Walker, in issuing an order for the investigation, told Atlanta reporters that the man's story would be checked from every angle and that a thorough investigation into conditions in Oglethorpe County, where Felton says he was held, would be made.

GOVERNMENT ASKED TO ACT
DANVILLE, VA., June 7.—Local

police authorities, believing that the new parts were needed. He did not have any money and he was pondering what to do when a horseman approached him and offered to give him work so that he might accumulate funds to repair his car.

The car was taken from him, also his clothes, and he was put to work in overalls and did not draw any money, he charges. All tasks were enforced, he claims. Most of his front teeth are missing. They were knocked out, he says, by a guard with a club.

Felton said that the servitude practiced on the farm was known to the Sheriff of the county who frequently visited the place. Felton will remain here until the Georgia authorities have sent some answer to the communication which has been forwarded to Gov. Walker, whose term expires June 2.

Those who have seen Felton have been struck by his peculiar and vagrant stare, which furnished the basis for the belief that his mind may be disordered. The strange look he has, he explains, is due to years spent in the workings of a coal mine in West Virginia. He was imprisoned in a mine for 24 hours by a fall of slag and claims that gas was partly responsible for the queer look.

Felton, who is a Virginia native, has had some schooling and seems to be above the average in intelligence. The farm in Oglethorpe county, Georgia, where Felton claims peonage is practiced, is owned, he says, by "Dr. King." It is at Lexington, Ga., a small place served by a small railway. Athens is the nearest city to the farm and this is 51 or 52 miles away. He claims that his period of detention lasted one year, four months and 14 days, and that when he escaped he hid for three days in a swamp without food and made his way north by night, hiding by day fearing lest he be recaptured and killed.

He gave the police the name of the place where he alleges peonage names Deputy Sheriff John Paul as is being practiced, the name of the officer who had cognizance of man owning the estate and various peonage conditions and who occasionally visited the farm. He does not know the name of the "high sheriff" who he claims was also familiar with conditions. Felton says there are "45 head of men and 25 head of women" suffering hardships on the farm. The five assisted in digging five graves for colored people who were shot or killed with axes before his eyes, he says he can lead the way to them. says, were done away with because their plan to escape was detected. One of the victims, a woman, he says, was struck down with an axe. There are two other colored people who disappeared and he does not know what became of them. He admitted that he escaped from one of 15 guards May 15 when he was sent with other Negroes to round up mules. He made his way north on foot.

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The car was taken from him, also his clothes, and he was put to work in overalls and did not draw any money, he charges. All tasks were enforced, he claims. Most of his front teeth are missing. They were knocked out, he says, by a guard with a club.

Felton said that the servitude practiced on the farm was known to the Sheriff of the county who frequently visited the place.

Felton will remain here until the Georgia authorities have sent some answer to the communication which has been forwarded to Gov. Walker, whose term expires June 2.

Those who have seen Felton have been struck by his peculiar and vagrant stare, which furnished the basis for the belief that his mind may be disordered. The strange look he has, he explains, is due to years spent in the workings of a coal mine in West Virginia. He was imprisoned in a mine for 24 hours by a fall of slag and claims that gas was partly responsible for the queer look.

Felton, who is a Virginia native, has had some schooling and seems to be above the average in intelligence. The farm in Oglethorpe county, Georgia, where Felton claims peonage is practiced, is owned, he says, by "Dr. King." It is at Lexington, Ga., a small place served by a small railway. Athens is the nearest city to the farm and this is 51 or 52 miles away. He claims that his period of detention lasted one year, four months and 14 days, and that when he escaped he hid for three days in a swamp without food and made his way north by night, hiding by day fearing lest he be recaptured and killed.

He gave the police the name of the place where he alleges peonage names Deputy Sheriff John Paul as is being practiced, the name of the officer who had cognizance of man owning the estate and various peonage conditions and who occasionally visited the farm. He does not know the name of the "high sheriff" who he claims was also familiar with conditions. Felton says there are "45 head of men and 25 head of women" suffering hardships on the farm. The five assisted in digging five graves for colored people who were shot or killed with axes before his eyes, he says he can lead the way to them. says, were done away with because their plan to escape was detected. One of the victims, a woman, he says, was struck down with an axe. There are two other colored people who disappeared and he does not know what became of them. He admitted that he escaped from one of 15 guards May 15 when he was sent with other Negroes to round up mules. He made his way north on foot.

His detention, he says, began the day his dilapidated automobile broke down near the plantation, while he was driving from Florida. The breakdown was so serious that

the new parts were needed. He did not have any money and he was pondering what to do when a horseman approached him and offered to give him work so that he might accumulate funds to repair his car.

The car was taken from him, also his clothes, and he was put to work in overalls and did not draw any money, he charges. All tasks were enforced, he claims. Most of his front teeth are missing. They were knocked out, he says, by a guard with a club.

Livid scars on the back of his hands, he explains, are due to burns. He was working at the farm sawmill and new babbitt bearing were being cast. The guard, Felton says, took offense at the way he was working and told another Negro to pour the molten babbitt over his hands. His missing teeth give evidence of being knocked out, for, like most Negroes, his teeth are excellent and are not diseased or likely to have been lost through gum infection.

It was indicated that unless some degree of interest is manifested by the federal authorities Felton will be set free and the matter will be dropped.

NEWS

LEWIS - 7.C
JUN 6 1927

NEGRO TELLS OF PEONAGE IN GEORGIA

The police authorities have forwarded to Governor Clifford Walker, of Georgia a revolting story of peonage told last night by James Felton, a 31-year-old negro detained there after being found in an emaciated condition. The negro agreed to tell his story on the understanding that he be given the protection of the city jail. His narrative was told five times to different people and he was interrogated closely, efforts being made to trap him in conflicting stories, but the negro made an impression of truth and failed to become involved.

It is because of the conviction that the negro is telling the truth that the negro's story was taken down and forwarded to the Georgia executive who is understood to be waging war on peonage.

Felton was traveling in a dilapidated car by the plantation when it broke down, he said. He had no money for needed parts and, according to his story, while he was pondering what to do a white man on horseback approached him and offered him work so that he could save up enough money to repair his car. Felton says he accepted the offer but that was a year ago and until two weeks ago today when he eluded a guard while rounding up some mules he claims to have drawn no wages and to have been subjected, with others, to cruelty. All of his front teeth are missing. He says they were knocked out by the butt of a guard's revolver.

The most serious accusation made by the negro was that five negroes were murdered on the alleged peonage farm and that he dug or assisted in digging all of the graves.

Labor-1927

Peonage

DR. KING FREED ON PEONAGE COUNT

Negro Who Made Sensational Charges in Case Is Not Placed on Stand To Testify.

Athens, Ga., June 8.—(AP)—Dr. W. R. King, prominent physician-farmer of Oglethorpe county, was found not guilty by a federal court jury here early tonight of a charge of peonage. The jury deliberated about an hour and a half.

The trial opened Monday and was featured by testimony of various employees and neighbors who told of the big farm and the treatment accorded them by the accused man.

James Felton, a negro former employee of Dr. King, who was summoned here by the government following Felton's sensational charges to officers in Danville, Va., that he had knowledge of five murders on the King farm and that armed guards kept 50 or more negroes at work against their will, returned to Virginia without being called. District Attorney B. S. Dwyer told the court that "it was determined from an interview with Felton that he was not a witness that could tell the jury anything of value."

Assistant United States District Attorney Scott Russell, of Macon, revealed after the verdict was read that Felton confessed he made his charges of peonage on the King farm to escape incarceration on a charge of vagrancy at Danville. He repudiated his story that he was shafted to the farm when his automobile broke down while he was en route north from Florida, asserting that Dr. King had "bought" him out of the Atlanta jail and that he had worked on his farm for some time after that.

When taken to the Oglethorpe county farm, where he had told officers he could point out the graves of the five negroes he said had been slain, he turned to a deputy marshal and said: "I might as well come clean. I never saw any killings on this farm, and never heard of any."

Dr. King took the stand today and entered unqualified denial to charges of peonage conditions on the farm he formerly occupied in Oglethorpe county.

SAY "CLYDE MANNING" IS FAKE!

According to a telegram received from B. J. Davis, editor of the Atlanta Independent, Atlanta, Ga., the man posing in New York as Clyde Manning is an impostor.

A story appeared in the columns of The New York Age of November 12 concerning Manning.

The telegram read as follows:

"Negro posing in New York as Clyde Manning a fake. Manning died in penitentiary, January 19th, 1927, without being pardoned. Correct your story. You have been imposed on. Impostor should be arrested. B. J. DAVIS"

The public is warned against giving said Clyde Manning any financial assistance.

SALT LAKE CITY

UTAH

JUN 6 1927

CAN THIS BE TRUE?

Danville, Va., police authorities recently forwarded to Governor Clifford Walker of Georgia a full draft of the story told by James Felton, a negro, who asserts he was kept in servitude on a 10,000-acre farm in Georgia, where he and approximately fifty other negro men have been subjected to brutal treatment during their alleged peonage.

Felton was picked up in Danville in a famished condition, and expressed willingness to remain in detention pending an official check-up of his story. He told the story five times and was subjected to rigid questioning. A few minor discrepancies were noted, but there was no fundamental contradiction.

He gave the police the name of the place where he alleges peonage is being practiced, the name of the man owning the estate and various references in Florida and West Virginia. This information Felton declines to make public, having been told to withhold it lest publicity handicap the Georgia executive, who is reported to be conducting a crusade against peonage.

Georgia.

the extreme and investigations have resulted in some reforms. But if the state of Georgia winks at conditions such as described by Felton, the limit has been reached. It is up to the government to see to it that the liberties guaranteed by the constitution are not infringed upon, even in the case of negroes.

Felton told the authorities he had assisted in digging five graves for negroes who were murdered, and says he can lead the way to them. One of the victims, a woman, he says, he saw struck down with an ax.

The negro declared he had been in virtual slavery since last January and that he escaped from one of fifteen guards May 15, when he was sent with other negroes to round up mules. He made his way north on foot.

His detention, he says, began the day his dilapidated automobile broke down near the plantation while he was driving from Florida. The breakdown was so serious that new parts were needed. He did not have any money and he was pondering what to do when a horseman approached him and offered to give him work so that he might accumulate funds to repair his car.

The car was taken from him, also his clothes, and he was put to work in overalls and did not draw any money, he charges. All tasks were enforced, he claims. Most of his front teeth are missing. They were knocked out, he says, by a guard with a club.

Felton said that the servitude practiced on the farm was known to the sheriff of the county, who frequently visited the place.

The treatment of convicts, particularly negroes, in some of the southern states has been brutal in

Labor—1927

Peonage

Brothers Sought Since 1921

Give Up To Face Trial In

Connection With The

Deaths Of Negroes.

BODIES OF ELEVEN WERE

FOUND BURIED ON FARM

U. S. Government Investigation

Led To Exposure Of

Horrible Conditions Exist-

ing On Plantation.

(Special to the Argus)

MONTICELLO, Ga., Feb. 17—Huland and Marvin Williams, sought for more than five years on charges of murder and peonage in connection with a federal investigation of conditions on the Williams farm in 1921, were in jail Tuesday.

Give Selves Up

The two brothers surrendered to authorities Monday. Indictments charge them with the death of three Colored Americans, J. S. Littleton, 'Ironjaw' and 'Blackstrap'. Another brother, Leroy, is under bond awaiting trial in the case and their father, J. S. Williams, is serving a life term in the penitentiary.

The Williams case came into public notice after department of justice agents visited the Jasper County farm in the spring of 1921. The government investigators at that time charged that more than 20 Negroes on the farm had been killed from time to time and their bodies buried or thrown into Yellow River which flows near the farm.

Find Eleven Bodies

When officers discovered 11 bodies in shallow graves on the farm, Williams and his three sons were indicted in the state court for murder and the federal court held them for trial on peonage charges.

The elder Williams tried in the state court, was convicted of murder largely through the testimony of Clyde Manning, a colored farm laborer, who said that he had been forced to aid the farmer in "getting rid" of Negro plantation workers. Manning was sentenced to life imprisonment.

Manning described how Negroes that were to be killed were chained together and thrown into the river despite their shrieks and prayers.

Williams denied any part in slayings and maintained he was the victim of 'a frame-up.'

Cause of Surrender Unknown

The three sons of the convicted man fled before indictments were returned against them. Leroy returned three years later and asked an immediate hearing on the murder charge. He was acquitted and later gave bond on the peonage charge.

Huland and Marvin Williams are believed to have remained in hiding in Florida since the investigation. No statement has been given by them as to why they returned to face their indictments.

EXPOSER OF GA. PEONAGE CRIMES DIES IN PRISON

Negro Witness In Slayings On Farm Would Have Appeared Against Two Now Held.

Preston News Service

ATLANTA, Ga., Feb. 23—Clyde Manning, formerly foreman for J. S. Williams on the farm where slavery conditions were alleged to have existed in 1921 and out of which grew murder charges against Williams, his three sons and Manning, died January 19 in the tuberculosis camp of the prison farm it became known Friday.

Manning was the chief witness against J. S. Williams of Jasper county, when he was sentenced to life imprisonment in connection with the death of 11 Negroes on his farm. Manning also was given a life term.

Interest was revived in the case last week when Huland and Marvin Williams were under indictment for murder, and fugitives from justice since 1921, returned to their home in Monticello, Ga. They spent one night in jail and then gave bonds for \$2,500 each. Their trial is scheduled for next August. Leroy Williams, a brother, also is out under bond on charges of murder growing out of the department of justice investigations of the peonage reports.

WHITES HELD ON PEONAGE CHARGES

Monticello, Ga., Feb. 26—(ANP)—Marvin and Huland Williams and a third brother Leroy Williams will face the charge of murdering Negro farm hands when the August session of the Superior Court is held. The three brothers were arrested on indictments pending for five years as a result of peonage conditions on their father's farm.

Their arrest Monday revived the gruesome murder of several Negroes and the hardships worked upon others by John Williams and his men Friday, Clyde Manning, the famous "Williams" Murder Farm. For these crimes Williams and Manning are serving life terms in the State Prison.

In addition to the charge of murder the three sons of the noted killer are charged with enslaving Negroes, but in spite of the gravity of the charges each was released upon \$2,500 bond.

Peonage Witness Convicted Dies In Prison Labor Camp

(Preston News Service)

Atlanta, Ga., Feb. 25—Clyde Manning, formerly foreman for J. S. Williams on the farm where slavery conditions were alleged to have existed in 1921 and out of which grew murder charges against Williams, his three sons and Manning, died Jan. 19 in the tuberculosis camp of the prison farm it became known Friday.

Manning was the chief witness against J. S. Williams of Jasper County, when he was sentenced to life imprisonment in connection with the death of eleven negroes on his farm. Manning also was given a life term.

Interest was revived in the case two years ago when Huland and Marvin Williams were under indictment for murder, and fugitives from justice since 1921, returned to their home in Monticello, Ga. They spent one night in jail and then gave bonds for \$2,500 each. Their trial is scheduled for next August. Leroy Williams, a brother, also is out under bond on charges of murder growing out of the Department of Justice investigations of the peonage reports.

Georgia

BROTHERS SURRENDER TO POLICE

Prosecution to be Pushed Despite Death of John Manning, Principal Witness in 1921.

ATLANTA, Ga., Feb. 24—A revival of the infamous John S. Williams peonage case, occurred here last week, when Marvin and Hubert Williams, surrendered to answer indictments returned against them in 1921, growing out of investigations of peonage conditions on the farm of their father, John S. Williams.

The elder Williams was convicted and given a life term in the state prison in connection with charges growing out of the death of 11 race people on his farm. Peonage charges brought by the Federal department of Justice were never prosecuted.

The two brothers fled from the state when the indictments were returned in 1921 and were fugitives until last night, when they surrendered to the sheriff of Jasper county. After a night in jail, they gave bond and trial was set for the August term of Superior Court.

Third Brother Accused

Indictments against the two brothers charged them with the deaths of two Negroes. Another brother, Leroy, surrendered about two years ago and asked for an immediate trial. He is free under bond. Killing of the three Negroes is said to have occurred before the federal investigation of peonage charges.

The two brothers also are under federal indictments in connection with the peonage charges.

It was brought out at the trial of the elder Williams that soon after federal agents began their investigation of "slavery conditions" on his farm, he transported

some of the Negroes he had obtained from the Macon and Atlanta jails to a bridge over the Yellow river and, after tying their hands behind them and placing sacks filled with stones on their feet, threw them into the stream.

Clyde Manning, Negro foreman of Williams, turned state's evidence. He was serving a life sentence.

Huland, Marvin and Leroy were not implicated in the wholesale drowning, but information regarding the three other deaths was placed before the Grand Jury.

To Prosecute Case

Although Clyde Manning, race convict, chief witness in murder proceedings brought against Marvin and Huland Williams, of Jasper county, is dead, the state will not drop the case against the accused men, but will prosecute vigorously with other witnesses in the case according to an announcement made Thursday by Joe B. Duke, solicitor general of the Ocmulgee circuit.

JAMES FELTON CHARGES PEONAGE IN S. CAROLINA

The Associated Negro Press.

DANVILLE, Va., June 15.—James Felton, who is charging that peonage is practiced in Oglethorpe County, Georgia, involving a prominent Georgian, in an affidavit made May 30, gave a detailed account of the treatment he received and outlined the charges that have caused a complete investigation by Governor Clifford Walker of Georgia, "who does not believe the charges." Felton's affidavit is as follows:

"I, James Felton of the township of Bluefield, W. Virginia, being duly sworn according to law, depose and say:

My name is James Felton, son of Wm. Felton (now deceased) and Julia Felton, who was living on Route 4, Bluefield, W. Va., when I last heard from her.

About the last of December, 1925, I left West Palm Beach, Florida, on my way back home to Bluefield, W. Va., and about three o'clock on the afternoon of January 9, 1926, the rear end of my Ford car broke down about two and one-half miles southeast of Athens, Ga., on Route No. 49. In a short while a middle-aged white man who I learned later was a Dr. King came along in a gray Cadillac automobile and spoke to me: "Hello

Jack, you seem to be having a little trouble. What's the matter?" I answered, "The trouble is in the rear end of my car and I'm out of money." "How'd you like to work for me a couple of weeks until I can have your car towed into Athens and fixed up for you so you can continue your trip?" "Yes, sir, I don't mind working any place for a while so I can get on home."

Dr. King then took me with my suitcase containing a few clothes in his automobile and turned right back on Route 49 and drove about eleven miles, then turned towards Jasper county, drove through Jasper county across the river into Oglethorpe county and to Lexington, the county seat. We drove around there until after dark then drove out several miles along rough country roads and finally reaching a big building out there on a farm, Dr. King called out, "John Dowdy, here's another coon for you; take him into the commissary and give him a pair of overalls, a blue shirt, suit of heavy underwear, and some heavy shoes. Take these clothes and his suitcase and burn them as you've done the rest of them."

When Dr. King then turned his back to leave I reached for a pistol that I had holstered under my left arm with the intention of shooting John Dowdy, who seemed to be his colored overseer, when a voice from inside the building said, "Take it off him, John, and bring it here and let me see it." Looking around, I saw a Winchester rifle in the hands of a white man who I learned later was Earl Moody, trained directly upon me so I made no further effort, but let Dowdy take my pistol and other belongings and changed to the one was beaten or punished in any clothes that Dr. King had ordered way—the men and the women—at him to give me. I was then instructed the whim of Dr. King or any of the ed not to speak to anyone whom overseers, sometimes by being lash-should see there under pain of death and sometimes by being branded. unless it were one of the overseers of whom I now remember nine.

They were John Dowdy, (colored) heard that there were other farms and Frank Dowdy, his father; Berry belonging to this same Dr. Smith Hayes (colored) George Frooster that had more than this, and I think (colored) Earl Moody, Geo. Taylor, all of them were or are in Oglethorpe county, E. R. Weaver, C. H. White, and Dr. King's brother or nephew whose name I do not know.

Sometime after I had been in this absolutely controlled by Dr. Smith. farm, or about the last of March, a part of the time that I spent there 1926, three of the men held there were leased to other farms un- and two women managed somehow to der different overseers but I think escape. They were hunted for sever- the owner was Dr. Smith. al hours without being found but the Lexington is the county seat and next day the deputy sheriff of Ogle- is entered by only one railroad train thorpe county, John Paul by name, from Athens, Ga.; the roads of the with some deputies and the high county being practically impassable sheriff, I think, brought these five in wet weather and avoided all the persons back and told Dr. King, time as they are exceedingly rough. "Here are these sons of b— that Even the public officials of this town tried to get away from you; take seem to be hired or working for Dr. them back and give them what they Smith as all seem to take orders from need." They were then given severe beatings and the next morning Dr. King came back and said that he was afraid to keep them, they weren't any good except to try to get away and he thought he'd bet-

ter do away with them. He himself, then shot one and killed one with an axe, John Dowdy killed one with an axe, and Dr. King's nephew shot two. I saw all of these killings and had to help take the bodies about two miles out where a hole was dug and all five of the bodies put into it in one heap. I can go to this grave right now and will be glad to take anyone there under proper guard so that we will be able to get away again. After this killing two other men were taken away and said to be drowned. I did not see this done, but the men never returned to the farm. The river where they were said to be drowned was about eight miles from where we were.

I have scars now on my right hand which were made by John Dowdy pouring hot solder on me one day when Dr. King came to the field and said I was not working fast enough. My hand was burned terribly and pained me for several days almost unbearably but I was not allowed to quit working and we never knew what it was to quit work for rain or cold weather.

Last August I was whispering to a boy one night asking him to write a letter for me when in some way Frank Dowdy heard me and knock- ed me in the face with a pick handle which he carried around with him, knocking all my front teeth out. Several other men there have been beaten unmercifully about just whispering or speaking to one an- other at night and some of them told me that they had been there for as long as ten years and had never been allowed to hold a conversation with anyone or have a moment's freedom from that farm. Every- belonging and changed to the one was beaten or punished in any clothes that Dr. King had ordered way—the men and the women—at him to give me. I was then instructed the whim of Dr. King or any of the ed not to speak to anyone whom overseers, sometimes by being lash-should see there under pain of death and sometimes by being branded. unless it were one of the overseers of whom I now remember nine.

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swamps where I was hiding but I kept pressing farther and farther in- to the thicknesses for several days and finally came through into South Carolina and walked into Greenville on Sunday afternoon, May 8, and inquired for a branch of the N. A. A. C. P. at the colored drug store on Spring Street, of this city. Not finding a branch there I kept on hunting on up through South Caro- lina into Charlotte and Winston-Sa- lem, North Carolina, finally hearing that a branch was in Danville, Va., and I headed for here and arrived here on the early train about one o'clock yesterday morning, Sunday, May 29. This is the first time I have told by experiences since my escape on May 1.

I left Bluefield, West Virginia, where I was born, for the first ex- tended stay of any consequence in 1920 about the time of the railroad strike, on a transportation train for Philadelphia. After three years I left there in 1923 on another trans- portation to Miami, Florida, and worked for I. E. Shillings on a con- struction job until 1924, when I left Miami for West Palm Beach, Fla. with A. K. Lackey. It was from there that with my Ford car and \$161.00 in cash I left about the last of December, 1925, for my home in West Virginia. Taxes, gasoline and repair bills, and living expenses had left me only \$12.50 when my car broke down near Athens, Ga., on January 9. My taxes at one time on crossing the Monocogee River from Florida into Georgia were \$11- 50.

This date of January 9, 1926, is the day on which my car broke down and I was taken up by Dr. King on the Road near Athens, Georgia. Wit- ness: Dr. C. S. Cowan (signed) James Felton, State of Virginia, City of Danville, To-wit: Sworn to and subscribed before men this 30th day of May, 1927, M. C. Martin, Notary Public with Seal.

U. S. WILL PROBE DOCTOR ADMITS NEW GEORGIA IN PEONAGE TRIAL PEONAGE FARM

WASHINGTON, D. C.—A rigid in- vestigation of charges made by James Felton, to Danville, Va., authorities that he had been held in servitude on a 10,000 acre farm in Georgia will be investigated by the Depart- ment of Justice, it was announced last week.

The attorney of the Department of Justice was called to the story by the N. A. A. C. P., and Director Hoover of the bureau ordered an im- mediate investigation. Felton, who appeared in Danville, Va., last week in a half starved and emaciated con- dition, stated that he had made his way North on foot, following his

escape from the Georgia farm and declared that 50 other men and women were being subjected to brutal treatment on this farm where they were held in virtual slavery.

The investigation will no doubt be made from the Atlanta office of the bureau.

Denies Story

Despite the fact that similar cases have been reported in Georgia, for which men are now serving terms in prison, Governor Clifford Walker branded Felton's story as without foundation and untrue.

"The story is preposterous on its face," said the Governor, "but such a case demands a most rigid investi- gation." He stated that he had not received detailed information from the Danville police, but that as soon as the information was received, he would institute a rigid investi- gation.

According to Felton, the plantation is near Lexington, 52 miles from Athens and was run by a Dr. King. The sheriff's name he said was John Paul.

Killed With Ax

Felton also declared that he had seen tenants on the place struck down in the woods with axes, and that he had assisted in burying those who had thus been killed and others who had been shot. He show- ed physicians his own mouth, which was nearly toothless, as a result of his teeth being knocked out with a club in the hands of one of the guards. He also stated that he had been scalded with hot water.

Felton left this week for Athens, Ga., where he was taken to give places and details concerning charges of the peonage farm in Oglethorpe County, Georgia.

Felton is a witness also in the trial of Dr. W. R. King, physician-farmer, who is being tried in the United States Supreme Court on the charge of peonage. Police decline to divulge by what route Felton would travel to Georgia, their lips being sealed they say, by instructions from the Department of Justice.

LASHED NEGROES,

U. S. WILL PROBE DOCTOR ADMITS
NEW GEORGIA IN PEONAGE TRIAL
PEONAGE FARM

Athens, Ga., June 8.—(AP)—Although he said he had whipped four Negro employes on the Oglethorpe county plantation he formerly operated, Dr. W. R. King vigorously denied at his trial for peonage in United States Dis- trict court today that he ever used force to keep laborers on the farm or that he kept any one there against his will.

Witnesses Back King.

Dr. King was on the witness stand for nearly two hours after more than a score of defense witnesses had testi- fied that laborers on his plantation were not mistreated and were paid.

Testimony was completed late today.

Tom Davis, Negro and former em- ploye of King, called in rebuttal by the government, said he had been warned not to testify against Dr. King. George Brewster, a Negro de- fense witness, met him today, he said, and told him if testified against the physician "my life would be in my hands."

Why He Whipped Negroes.

Dr. King explained why he had pun- ished the four Negroes and said those were all he had whipped. Benny Dor- sey, whom he was specifically charged with having held in bondage, was giv- ing four licks with a switch for refus- ing to tell where he had placed a time book stolen from the mill, King said. Neelie Elder, a woman, was struck once with a strap during an argument over disappearance of provisions which Dr. King said she had been giving regularly to a Negro preacher. James Felton was switched for abusing a sawmill employe and Tom Davis was hit on the head when he "made a pass" at the doctor.

NEW YORK
EVE. WORLD
JUN 4 1927

OFFICIAL DOUBTS STORY OF PEONAGE

DANVILLE, Va., June 4.—Inspector Boddice of the Department of Justice left here last night for Washington carrying with him the sworn story of James Felton, Negro, who charges that peonage is practiced in Ogle- thorpe County, Ga., and that he es- caped from servitude there recently.

While Boddice declined to anticipate his formal report to superior officers, it was learned from other sources that he was not greatly impressed with Felton's story. He thought it likely that the Federal authorities in Georgia would be asked to investigate.

"Didn't Use Force,"
Merely Whipped Men

Although Dr. W. R. King, white, proprietor of an alleged peonage farm in Oglethorpe County, Georgia, admitted he struck and whipped Negroes, he denied having used force to keep them on his plantation and was acquitted of the peonage charge by a Federal Court jury in Athens, Ga.

James Felton, the man who es- caped to Danville, Va., was taken to Georgia to testify. Felton after testifying was returned to Virginia and there released.

Reports of peonage on Dr. King's farm had been made and called to the attention of the Department of Justice for some months prior to the trial just concluded.

Labor-1927
Peonage.

SLAVERY IN GEORGIA

Sometimes when an informed person happens to mention the fact that slavery still exists in certain rural sections of the South, his auditors register incredulity. Now, now, they will remonstrate, you are exaggerating. It is hard for them to believe it, sitting in safety and comfort in their homes. Yet it is true. The case of James Felton, the recently escaped slave from the plantation of Dr. King, in Oglethorpe County, proves it. In some miraculous way, this Negro escaped and made his way to Danville, Va., where he told his harrowing tale to a representative of the N. A. A. C. P. It was a tale of plain, unvarnished slavery; capture, forced labor and beating and killing of those who attempted to escape. The term peonage is hardly correct in a case like this. It is plain slavery.

Naturally the Governor of Georgia doubts the story, but his own investigation made a few days ago has probably removed all doubt. Even Dr. King admits that he struck and whipped Negroes, but denies that he used force to keep them on the plantation. The doctor is evidently a humorist as well as a slave catcher. The Federal Court sitting at Athens also has a sense of humor, for after hearing the testimony of such witnesses as dared put in appearance, and after listening to Dr. King's admissions and denials, it handed down a decision of "Not Guilty." The good doctor motored back to his plantation, covering almost the entire county, in which his word is law, eased his mind, and the incident was closed. James Felton, though unpaid for his months of enforced toil, is fortunate in being alive and free from the clutches of the doctor and his slave drivers.

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NEW YORK CITY

SUN and GLOBE

JUN 4 1927

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Georgia Governor Hears Charge That Five Were Slain, Fifty Enslaved, on Farm.

ATLANTA, Ga., June 4 (A. P.).—A negro laborer's charge that he was held in peonage on a Georgia plantation for seventeen months with fifty other negroes and that five of them were slain has caused Gov. Clifford Walker to order a rigid investigation.

Gov. Walker said he placed little credence in a story James Felton told Danville, Va., police, and the negro's charges were denied in detail by Dr. W. R. King, a prominent physician-farmer, whose trial on peonage charges is scheduled to begin Monday at Athens, Ga.

Dr. King operated a farm of about 400 acres near Lexington, Ga., in Oglethorpe, one of the largest counties in the State. Lexington is about eighty miles east of Atlanta, within seventy-five miles of the South Carolina line.

Felton told the Danville police that he escaped from a Georgia farm owned by a "Dr. King" about two weeks ago after being detained by

armed guards for more than a year.

Dr. King Indicted.

Dr. W. R. King was indicted by a Federal Grand Jury last December on the specific allegation of a Department of Justice agent that Sonney Dorsey, a negro, was compelled to work on his farm without pay. The agent also charged in a complaint that another negro and several white men were involved.

Dr. King denied the charge, waived preliminary hearing and after the Grand Jury action made bond of \$1,000 for his appearance for trial.

Felton charged he was shanghaied while returning from Florida in January, 1926, when his automobile broke down near the King farm. Fifty other negroes worked with him under armed guards, he said, adding that some of them knew of the alleged slayings. He promised to point out five graves on the plantation if given the protection of the State of Georgia.

Commenting on the negro's story Dr. King told the Associated Press over the long distance telephone that he obtained Felton's release from Atlanta police in May, 1926, but after idling around his farm several days the negro left.

Charged With Larceny.

Dr. King said he had offered \$50 reward for the negro's arrest on charges of larceny.

The negro told substantially the same story to two Georgia sheriffs before he left the State, Dr. King said, and later admitted he had lied in each instance.

A white farmer's report of alleged peonage on Dr. King's farm led to the Federal inquiry, in which W. G. Cornett, then U. S. Commissioner at Atlanta, participated.

Dr. King has retained as counsel a prominent Athens law firm and two other attorneys, and has intimated that about fifty witnesses, including Dorsey, the negro mentioned in the original allegation against him, would be summoned.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE PROBES PEONAGE REPORT

Man Held In Danville, Va., Tells of Slave Farm In Georgia

DIRECTOR HOOVER TO

MAKE INVESTIGATION

Claims Men Were Struck Down With Axes, and Witnesses 5 Murders

Danville, Va.—The Department of Justice has ordered an investigation of the report by James Felton that he saw five men killed by armed guards on a Georgia peonage farm owned by Dr. W. R. King.

King was indicted by a federal grand jury last November on a charge of peonage. He has been at liberty under bond and is scheduled to go on trial Monday.

In a dispatch from Washington says that the attention of the Department of Justice is called to the story and Director Hoover of the Bureau of Investigation ordered an inquiry.

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He said he was driving back to Florida in a Ford he had purchased and that the car broke down on the road. A man passing in a large car asked him if he would care to work for a while to earn money for repairs to the Ford. Felton, once at work, learned from other Negroes that they had been on the farm for years working under armed guards and without pay.

Saw Five Killed

"I saw five colored men killed on the farm before I escaped," declared Felton, "and I can show anybody where they are buried. I don't want to go out of jail until you find out whether my story is true."

Felton declared he had seen Negroes struck down in the woods with axes, that he had seen them shot and had assisted in the burials. He showed doctors his own mouth which was nearly toothless, asserting that a guard had knocked all his teeth out with a club and that he had been scalded with hot water.

N. Y. WORLD
MAY 31 1927

CHARGES PEONAGE ON GEORGIA FARM

Negro Tells Virginia Police 50 Others Are Enslaved on 10,000-Acre Tract

STATEMENT TO GOVERNOR

Sheriff Knows Truth, Fugitive Says; "Five Murdered"

Special Despatch to The World

DANVILLE, Va., May 30.—Local police authorities have forwarded to Gov. Clifford Walker of Georgia a full draft of the story told here by James Felton, thirty-one, a Negro, who asserts he was kept in servitude on a 10,000-acre farm in Georgia, where he and approximately fifty other Negro men have been subjected to brutal treatment during their alleged peonage.

Felton was picked up here in famished condition, and expressed willingness to remain in detention pending an official check-up of his story. He told that story five times and was subjected to rigid questioning. A few minor discrepancies were noted, but there was no fundamental contradiction.

He gave the police the name of the place where he alleges peonage is being practiced, the name of the man owning the estate and various references in Florida and West Virginia. This information Felton declines to make public, having been told to withhold it lest publicity handicap the Georgia executive, who is reported to be conducting a crusade against peonage.

Felton told the authorities he had assisted in digging five graves for Negroes who were murdered, and says he can lead the way to them. One of the victims, a woman, he says, he saw struck down with an ax.

The Negro declared he had been in virtual slavery since last January and that he escaped from one of fifteen guards May 15 when he was sent with other Negroes to round up mules. He made his way North on foot.

His detention, he says, began the day his dilapidated automobile broke down

near the plantation while he was driving clothes, and he was put to work in Sheriff of the county, who frequently visited the place. Felton will remain here until the Georgia authorities have sent some answer to the communication which has been forwarded to Gov. Walker, whose term expires July 2.

Labour-1927
Peonage.

Georgia.

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His detention, he says, began the day his dilapidated automobile broke down near the plantation while he was driving from Florida. The breakdown was so serious that new parts were needed. He did not have any money and he was pondering what to do when a horseman approached him and offered to give him work so that he might accumulate funds to repair his car.

Felton will remain here until the Georgia authorities have sent some answer to the communication which has been forwarded to Gov. Walker, whose term expires July 2.

Affidavit Tells How He Was Forced To Lie Under Threat Of Death

Says He Saw Fresh Dirt and Wagon Tracks When He Took Officers to Grave of Victims, But These Signs Were Ignored— Says Cracker Offered Deputy \$50 to "Have Him For a While."

DANVILLE, Va., June 23.—(By A. N. P.)—How he was separated from the U. S. Deputy Marshall who carried him to Georgia and how he was forced to retract his former charges by officers of the law were related in an affidavit made here Thursday by James Felton, who charged that peonage was being practiced on Dr. W. R. King's farm in Georgia and was carried back to the state, June 5, as a witness for the government against Dr. King.

In a previous affidavit Felton declared that he had seen five men killed on Dr. King's Georgia farm and had help to bury them. Upon his arrival in Georgia he was taken from U. S. Deputy, O. S. Mayberry by Georgia officers who sought to intimidate him at all times and never missed an opportunity to hurl vile epithets at him and threaten to "blow his brains out."

According to Felton's affidavit sworn to Thursday he was taken back to the King farm by Georgia officers and carried to the spot where he had seen the five bodies buried. "Fresh dirt around the place," declared Felton, "showed me that recent digging had been done and a wagon track showed that a wagon of some kind had been brought near the spot. I felt certain then after seeing all this that nothing would be found in the grave but the marshall took his foot, pushed aside a little dirt, then turned to me very threateningly and said, 'Now look here, you've got to come clean about this thing right now—did you ever see or hear of any killings around here or help bury anybody at any time?' Being alone, and absolutely helpless in the hands of two armed men, where probably no friends knew where I was, I answered meekly, 'No, sir. 'All right, then,' he said. 'You'd better stick to that and not tell any more G... d... lies about it.'"

On the following morning, which was Tuesday, Felton further de-

Felton's affidavit follows:— I, James Felton, being duly sworn according to law, depose and say that the following is true to my own knowledge:

That I left Danville, Va., on Sunday night, June 5, 1927, at about 11 o'clock, in the custody of Police Officer O. S. Mayberry, who was deputized as a Federal officer, and reached Athens, Ga., about 10:30 o'clock the next morning, to serve as a government witness in the trial of Dr. King who was charged with running a peonage farm in Oglethorpe County, Georgia, and who I had seen commit and direct five murders of human beings on this farm about the last of March, 1926.

Federal court was in session when we reached Athens but our case was not up and I was told that I would be taken that afternoon down to the King farm where I had witnessed these murders while I was held in peonage there under Dr. King in 1926. Before leaving the courtroom building while there in one of the little side offices, Scott Jackson, a deputy sheriff and brother of the high sheriff, Walter Jackson, said to the U. S. Marshal who had me in charge, "Why don't you

take that nigger out here about two miles from town and take your pistol and blow the black son of a b... 's brains out? That's what he needs for coming down here with that G... d... lie." As I had been separated from Officer Mayberry ever since we first got to the courthouse building and could not see anybody who did not seem to be in sympathy with Dr. King and very bitter towards me I almost wished then that I had never been brought back down there for any testimony at all.

Later on though about 4 o'clock on Monday, June 6, the U. S. Marshal and his son, who was acting as deputy, took me alone in a Ford touring car down to the King farm, about 47 miles down through the country and in the way directed by me to the spot where last year I helped bury the five bodies in one hole that had been murdered by and under the direction of Dr. King. Fresh dirt around the place showed me that recent digging had been done and a wagon track showed nearby that a wagon of some kind had been brought near this spot. I felt certain then after seeing all this that nothing would be found in the grave, but the Marshal took his foot and pushed aside a little dirt, then turned to me very threateningly and said, "Now, look here, you've got to come clean about this thing right now—did you ever see or hear of any killings around here or help bury anybody at any time?" Being alone, and absolutely helpless in the hands of two armed men where probably no friends knew where I was, I answered, meekly, "No, sir." "All right, then," he says, "you'd better stick to that and not tell any more G... d... lies about it." I said, "All right, sir." We got back to Athens safely about 6 o'clock, and I was imprisoned until Tuesday morning.

Sometime that morning the Marshal came and took me before some lawyers, all from Georgia, it seemed, and in his presence and before his son I was asked whether we found anything down on the King farm where we had gone and whether I had really ever seen any murders down there as I had told officers and others in Danville under oath. I felt forced to give the same answer before the Marshal here that I had given him down at the farm that afternoon before, so I told him that I hadn't seen anything and we didn't find anything. They then asked me why I had told that tale up in Danville, Va., and I told them that I told it to keep from being arrested for vagrancy. Some of them smiled at this and they kept me around there for some time until early in the afternoon Mr. Mayberry came where I was and asked me whether I'd like to come with him back to Danville. I told him, yes, sir, just as quickly as we could get back, which

I really meant, and sure enough about 4 o'clock I was given back into his charge, and he said that we should have to get out quietly as they had another warrant out for me, but he slipped me out from Athens and we got back to Danville early Wednesday morning, June 8, about 5 o'clock.

I felt very happy to be back in Danville alive, but I am hurt very much to think that I was made to retract the truth of what I had really seen and done without being given a chance to tell the real truth before Mr. Mayberry or someone else who I thought could protect me and would help me to get away safely afterwards.

In some way I certainly hope that the truth will be turned up in this matter as I realize that I am at the end of my rope since Dr. King has already said that he is going to have me arrested for the larceny of a pair of overalls from his farm and have me brought back to his county (Oglethorpe) for trial and punishment. I hope I may forever escape this "punishment" and will do my best to evade his clutches for if I am ever caught in that part of Georgia again except under strong Federal protection I know I shall never live to tell the tale.

Several offers were made for me before so Mr. Mayberry told me and I heard some of them myself, one poor-looking fellow telling him right before me that he would give him (Mr. Mayberry) \$50.00 if he would let him have me for a while. This naturally made me somewhat afraid and explains why I must have been very anxious to leave there and come back to Virginia.

James Felton.
Witness: C. B. Adams.
STATE OF VIRGINIA,
CITY OF DANVILLE, To-wit:
Subscribed and sworn to before me this 9th day of June 1927.
M. C. Martin,
Notary Public.
My commission expires March 1928.

**WALKER ORDERS
PEONAGE FARM
CHARGE PROBED**
"Dr. King," Oglethorpe County Farmer, Named in Negro's Sensational Story of Brutality.

W. R. KING FACES TRIAL ON MONDAY

Indictment Returned Last December Believed To Affect Same Case; U. S. Investigating.

Coincidental with announcement Friday that Governor Walker would launch a sweeping probe into alleged peonage conditions on the farm of a "Dr. King" in Oglethorpe county, as the result of sensational charges of brutality preferred by James Felton, negro, at Danville, Va., it became known that Dr. W. R. King, prominent physician and farmer of Oglethorpe county, who was indicted in Athens last November by a general grand jury on a charge of peonage, will face trial in Athens Monday before a jury of the United States district court.

Felton, who is being held in a Danville jail on a charge of vagrancy, charges specifically that "a Dr. King, in Oglethorpe county" compelled Sonny Dorsey, an Atlanta negro, to remain on his farm and work without pay, that he himself had been kept in bondage on the same farm for a year and a half and that many other negroes are now being held on the plantation, watched by "25 armed guards." It is further charged by the negro that five of the "prisoners" were murdered during the time that he worked on the farm.

An accredited agent of the United States department of justice interviewed Felton at length Friday in the Danville jail concerning the charges. During the questioning, the negro was placed under oath and it was pointed out to him that he was liable to severe punishment if it was found that he was telling a false story. Felton said, however, that he had nothing to fear as a result of the examination, and went so far as to say that he was ready to "go to the electric chair" if his statements could not be proven.

World Story.
First news of the alleged peonage case was printed in a dispatch from Danville to The New York World several days ago. The New York newspaper telegraphed Governor Walker concerning the case and the governor began an immediate investigation which is now under way.

The peonage complaint against Dr. King was made in August of last year, but Dr. King, who denied the charge, waived preliminary examination before a United States commissioner in

Williams case has confused the old Smith case, both of which were brought to light many years ago," the governor said. "The information I obtained through the chief of police of Danville was that the matter should be sifted to the bottom."

Governor Investigates.
Although the governor placed no confidence in the story, he said it was a matter that he would investigate thoroughly. "It looks like some demented negro

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He charged that the negro was on the farm of 10,000 acres when he escaped. There were 50 other negroes on the farm of 10,000 acres under the supervision of the United States department of justice interviewed Friday in the Danville jail concerning the charges. During the questioning, the negro was pointed out by the United States department of justice interviewed Friday in the Danville jail concerning the charges.

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charged that he was on his way from Florida in January, 1935, accompanied by another negro, whose automobile "broke down" near the plantation of "Dr. Williams," said he was shanghaied.

Labor - 1927

Peonage

Finds Many Stories of Exploitation and Peonage True and Living Conditions as bad as Painted in Some Refugee Stations. Mistreatment of Negroes due to Local Conditions and not Blamable on Red Cross. Hoover Meets in Conference. Remedies Proposed

Baton Rouge, La., June 25—(ANP)

"The refugee camps reflected perfectly the type of people manning them," reported the Colored Flood Advisory Commission to Mr. Hoover, at their meeting here last week. "Whenever the local Red Cross committee, composed as it naturally would be of white Southern cities of the communities affected, was broad and invited the co-operation of Colored citizens is caring for the refugees, conditions were good. Where the local committee was narrow, bigoted and intolerant of Negro rights, and failed to have the vision to enlist Colored citizens in contacting the refugees and interpreting their wants, conditions were bad."

Baton Rouge, La., Lafayette, La., and Natchez, Miss., were the camps reported as the best of the entire group. At Baton Rouge a typical "good" camp, "along with the white personnel, worked Colored assistants, directors, nurses and doctors, aiding in setting up camp, perfecting sanitation, feeding, clothing, and rendering the many small services which constantly presented themselves. Dr. V. B. Barrance and Dr. Joseph S. Clark, president of Southern University, headed an auxiliary group, divided into assistants at camp, Committees on Religious activities, recreation, community singing, athletics, and in charge of clothing. These committees functioned every minute. The camp had running city water piped in abundance, electric lights, a dry site, wide camp streets, shower baths with attendants, latrines male and female, screened, ventilated and protected with attendants, screened kitchens and storerooms, insect proof garbage receptacles, competitive tests for cleanliness of tents and tent areas, good quality a sufficiency as well as a considerable variety of food, paper plates incinerated after use, metal cups and other utensils sterilized after use, plenty of tents, cots, and bedding and clothing. Moving pictures were provided with church and lecture services and the 3,940 refugee

seemed the happiest and most contented group we met," said the report. At Natchez under the leadership of Mrs. Hattie Dumas who headed the local Red Cross auxiliary and Dr. R. W. Harrison, prominent local dentist who volunteered his professional services, the wants of the refugees were well cared for. "The camp named after Gov. Whitfield, known during his life as a friend of Colored people, was well located. We went into the mess tent and found plenty of wholesome food. There was some complaint that the white people were served a better grade of food than Colored, but we were fortunate in being there at "mess time" and observed that the same kind of food was being served both white and Colored. In all camps white and Colored people were divided, usually by a street. Little friction was reported between refugees and one of the functions of the national guard was to preserve order."

At Natchez, three meals a day were served, but at most other camps there were but two except for men who were working. Recreation facilities including a piano, community singing, moving pictures and games for the youngsters. We attribute the favorable conditions found here to the fact that

the local authorities provided a complete Colored organization with power to act in all emergencies. A former white Natchez woman residing now in New York had collected \$1700 which she sent to her brother, a local banker, with the request that it be given directly to the people. He gave it to Mrs. Dumas who added it to the \$800 raised by local Colored people and from this fund supplied all the intimate personal needs of the inmates of the camp.

Greenville, Miss., Crowley, La., and Sicily Island, La., when the censure of the committee as the worst camps. At Greenville, a typically "bad camp," there were about 3,000 refugees although this place was being used as a base for feeding about 40,000 more people who were not in the camp but stationed along the levees in that vicinity who came and got two week's rations at a time. There was consid-

erable restlessness at this camp. The first place visited was the emergency hospital with which we were most unfavorably impressed.

NEGROES HERDED BACK TO SLAVERY IN FLOOD REGION

Waters Ruin Their Crop and Increase Debts

OPELOUSAS, La., July 12.—Utter incompetence in the handling of the relief for the most serious natural disaster that has ever overtaken the United States, plain failure to do anything to save the farmers standing on levees and looking out over their ruined crops and houses rotting away in the waters still spread over the southern Mississippi valley, is the opinion about the United States government of all in the flooded region.

Hoover's Interest in Credit.

Herbert Hoover came down with a great flourish of trumpets, and journeyed about the flood waters on a government launch, promising much. But once he had perfected his machinery for controlling the credit of the government and that based on private funds, he lost interest in the people of the flood. When their land dries out, Hoover's string of "credit corporation" agents will see that the farmers pay thru the nose for every cent they borrow to rehabilitate their fortunes, and that is all there is to that.

Certain southern senators have shouted for an extra session of Congress to donate money to the flooded regions, but even these have grown quieter lately—the farmers observe that many of them are now connected with Hoover's "credit corporations" and become cynical over the prospects of Congress doing anything that will hurt business for the money lenders.

Poor Suffer Most.

The blow is heavy on the great plantation owners, but these at least

can take a mortgage on their property and plant and rebuild. The blow is crushing to the tenant farmers, most of them Negroes, who have seen their crops wiped out, who have nothing to pledge for seed or farm stock, who find the planters chalking up their debt higher and higher, and sinking them deeper into the mire of peonage because of the disaster.

Negroes Suffer Most.

These Negro tenants have a woeful tale to tell. When the flood came down upon them, they were saved last. The white landlords and their kind, the white business men of the towns in many cases saved their live stock before they saved the colored worker's wife and child. In the refugee camps, the whites had whatever comforts there were. The plantation owners hunted down "their" Negro tenants to escape, they were pursued with all the powers of the law, and haled back to their levee prisons, where many, still abide, fretting, sick, starving, hopeless, and forever unable to escape the pressure of the debts that the flood has added to, and which in the South, despite laws and constitutions, mean slavery for the Negro farmer.

NEGRO FLOOD VICTIMS HERDED INTO SLAVERY

(Preston News Service.)

Opelousas, La., July 22.—Extreme difficulty in the handling of relief for the most serious natural disaster that has ever overtaken the United States, plain failure to do anything to save the farmers standing on levees and looking out over their ruined crops and houses rotting away in the waters still spread over the southern Mississippi valley, is the most serious problem confronting relief workers.

The blow is heavy on the great plantation owners, but these at least can

take a mortgage on their property and plant and rebuild. The blow is crushing to the tenant farmers, most of them Negroes, who have seen their crops wiped out, who have nothing to pledge for seed or farm stock, who find the planters chalking up their debt higher and higher, and sinking them deeper in the mire of peonage because of the disaster.

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Colored Victims In Flooded Area Held In Bondage

(Preston News Service)

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Louisiana

HIGH WATER AFTERMATH.

Many Negroes were among the several hundred Louisiana convicts taken from their usual tasks and assigned to various forms of relief work during the flood and the State of Louisiana, it is reported, plans an unusual tribute to the devotion and even heroism, in many cases, with which they labored to save life and property and alleviate suffering. Their unity in teamwork making it difficult to discriminate, all will receive certificates of meritorious service. A considerable fraction of the whole number will be immediately pardoned and of the remaining sentences which others still have to serve, an important part will be remitted.

Almost at the same time that Louisiana was considering this gratifying testimonial to Negro and other delinquent men who had redeemed themselves in days of emergency, a meeting of Negroes in New York, called by the local branch of the American Negro Labor Congress, was formulating grave charges against the State of Mississippi. It was alleged that the state authorities had placed militia guards around the Negro relief camps and were preventing the Negroes from leaving. The assigned reason was that many Negroes, discouraged because of flood losses in this and other years, had planned to abandon the state permanently, perhaps to organize a migration movement to the North on a scale only a little less than that of the years succeeding the war. Duress at the camps, to compel farm laborers and cotton croppers to go back to their former places of abode in the state was alleged.

The truth of the public charge should be ascertained at once. If, as incidents of the ruinous floods, imprisoned men are being freed in one state, free men should not be confined in another. However, we may remember that state officials are not the only ones engaged in relieving the distress and inconvenience of the high water. Federal officials of disinterested viewpoints, or at least viewpoints possibly differing from those of state officials, are invested with a large supervisory authority. It is not likely that relief camps could be converted into peonage camps without their knowledge or that, having knowledge of the condition, they would permit it to continue.

PLANTERS SEEK TO ENSLAVE REFUGEES

Conspiracy to Make Negroes Peons in South.

New Orleans, June 4.—The end of the greatest flood in the Mississippi Valley is in sight. But the future for the colored refugees looks dark. Shall the Negro refugees be forced to submit to peonage? Shall the Southern planters be allowed to enslave flood victims? From many parts of the flood area, reports are coming of a wide-spread effort to hold colored refugees in peonage to Southern planters by preventing them from seeking work in the cities and in other states, by charging them for flood relief administered to them by holding them prisoners until they can be returned to their former employers. White refugees are not thus humiliated or bound and are not forced to work at arbitrary wages, or to pay for relief that the whole nation is freely giving for all flood victims. The white women and children receive the best of care. At Greenville, Miss., the relief committee recently issued an order denying food to colored families unless there was a man in the family working on the levee labor crews at \$1.00 a day. If he was paid over \$1 a day no rations were to be given members of the family. White refugees are not required to work to receive relief rations. Colored refugees are prevented from leaving concentration camps without the consent of their employers or landlords. It is also reported that the Red Cross have promised to return all Negro refugees back to owners of the plantations on which they formerly worked. If the former white employers actually owned the Negro refugees they could not have more power over them. In camps, the Negroes are actually prisoners guarded by troops to prevent their escape, and to see that they work before they can get food or relief, according to investigations. With about 200,000 Negroes homeless and at the mercy of white plantation owners, a wide-spread system of peonage for Negro refugees and farm hands looms up on the horizon, a system more heartless and brutal than their former condition. Eighty percent of the colored refugees lost all they possessed in the flood.

The following report from Mississippi shows some Negroes preferring liberty to peonage, and also the brutal treatment of Negro laborers even now in the flood area. Reports are being

brought northward by investigators of deplorable moral conditions forced on colored girls and women. Throughout Mississippi and Louisiana for years concubinage of Negro women in rural districts and some cities has existed but flood conditions have made conditions even worse.

Peonage was recently exposed by Federal investigators in Louisiana, Georgia, and Mississippi, before the flood; but the proposed peonage of Negro farm hands is to be more wide spread and more demoralizing than the isolated cases referred to. The Southern planters propose to fasten peonage on hundreds of colored men and their families to recover their flood losses, by charging colored families with money given to relieve flood conditions, unless race leaders take active steps to check the wholesale enslavement of colored flood victims. Labor agents are not allowed to offer the refugees employment that would pay living wages in the cities and the North. An exodus of all able to escape is predicted if the planters carry out their plan to force flood victims into serfdom, or deny them living wages and decent living conditions in the flood area. One other fact should be investigated. In many cities, Washington, D. C., included, Negroes refugees seeking work are arrested on the charge of vagrancy and jailed, when their only crime is they are seeking work and greater opportunity to be better Americans.

Labor-1927

Peonage.

THE PRICE IS LOWER THAN IN REGULAR SLAVERY DAYS

News dispatches state that a white man has been taken into custody in one of the counties of Louisiana for selling a family of three Negroes into virtual slavery for the paltry sum of \$20. Comments upon the occurrence indicate that the practice is common in that section and that the price paid him is by no means out of the ordinary.

Wonderful Louisiana. From the standpoint of the planters of that section conditions are even better than they were during regular slavery days. Then the price of slaves was higher. Some of them, we understand, brought as high as \$1,000 and hardly ever was one sold for less than \$200, and in that case some defect was necessarily present. Things have changed for the better in Louisiana in this, the year of our Lord 1927.

Think, if you please of the tremendous progress made in that section during the years since the Civil War. The value of crops has increased materially. The markets, thanks to automobile transport, are closer and more easily reached. Taxes for schools are very little higher, and best of all the price of labor, Negro labor, has even decreased, thanks to the continued reign of "Nordics" in Louisiana and the political expediency which makes Federal intervention

Farmer To Go On Trial Soon For Peonage

MONROE, La., Feb. 21. — W. P. Parham, white planter, will go on trial in Federal Court April 1 on charges of peonage in connection with the alleged enslavement of a family of Negroes. The date was fixed last week by Judge Ben Davkins. Parham was released on bond.

The man was charged with forcing a race woman and her two children to return with him from Monroe to his plantation where he was alleged to have held them until they worked out a debt contracted by the woman's husband.

MORE PEONAGE REVEALED

MONROE, La., Feb. 22. — Another case of peonage was revealed in this state last week when W. P. Parham, white planter, was arrested by federal officers on a charge of enslaving a colored woman and her two children. Parham was released under \$750 bond. He will be tried in the United States district court in April.

Louisiana.

CHARGES NEGROES SOLD IN SLAVERY

Family of Five Abducted in Mississippi Says Federal Grand Jury Indictment

NEW ORLEANS, Feb. 2. — (AP) — Abduction, sale and enslavement of a family of five negroes was charged in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury here late today against Webb Bellers and John D. Alford, of Amite county, Miss.

Officials said investigation of the case had revealed the alleged existence of peonage conditions under which negroes were kept in slavery without a pretense of arrangements for the "working out" system.

The indictment charged that Belleu and Alfred went to the home of Crawford Allen, 50, an old negro, near the Louisiana boundary in Amite county, Miss., last August and after seeking a grown daughter whom they failed to find, forced the negro to get out of a sick bed and accompany them to Fluker, La.

Meeting Crawford's wife and three children, all under twelve years of age, the indictment charged, that the captives were sold to F. Hurst, a farmer of the Fluker section for \$20.

The five were forced to work without wages for weeks under armed guard the jury charged.

PROSECUTIONS FOR PEONAGE

Recent news accounts from New Orleans indicate that the United States authorities have uncovered several new cases of peonage, which show that human slavery is still a source of profit in the country districts of Louisiana and Mississippi. Seven true bills were returned by the grand jury against the owners of a Mississippi plantation, for forcing Negroes to work to pay fictitious debts. This was in Amite county, where two men were alleged to have enslaved an entire Negro family.

The investigation by the Department of Justice agents has been extended to neighboring counties in Mississippi and Louisiana, with the result of disclosing other cases of abduction and enslavement, in St. Helena and Tangipahoa parishes. In some of these cases the victims of the slavers were reported to have been forced to leave their homes at night half clad, to be sold into slavery. The price said to have been paid for one family was the pitiful sum of twenty dollars, their new owners forcing them to work several weeks without pay and with scant food, all the time being under armed guard.

Previous investigations have revealed the existence of various forms of peonage in the country districts of Georgia and Florida, and the Federal authorities through the Department of Justice have kept up a continual war against the practice. But the old institution of human slavery dies hard it appears, and in the backward sections of the South the theory of emancipation has not yet become a reality. There is need for all the forces of the national government to be exerted in order to make the presidential proclamation of 1863 a living fact in all sections of the country.

It was the thirteenth amendment to the Constitution that declared: "Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime, whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction." The appropriate legislation enacted to enforce this article has

caused the Department of Justice to keep in all sections of the country, the domestic tranquility insured by that historic document will be a missing quantity. Peonage, lynching and disfranchisement are incompatible with the blessings of liberty sought for by the masses of the constitution.

Until all the guaranties of the Constitution are enacted into law and duly enforced

Peonage.

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Farmer To Go Enslaving of Race in On Trial Soon For Peonage

NEW ORLEANS, La., Feb. 21.—W. P. Parham, white-to-do farmer and Parish Court April judge, charged with the alleged enslavement of a family of Negroes, was fixed last week by Judge Ben Dawkins. Parham was released on bond.

The man was charged with forcing a race woman and her two children to return with him from Monroe to his plantation, where he was charged to have kept them until they worked out a debt contracted by the woman's husband.

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Officials said investigation of the case had revealed the alleged existence of peonage conditions under which negroes were kept in slavery without a pretense of arrangements for the "working out" system.

The indictment charges that Bellers and Alford went to the home of Crawford Allen, an old negro, near the Louisiana-Mississippi boundary in Mississippi, last August, and after seeking a grown daughter whom they failed to find, forced the negro to get out of a sick bed and accompany them to Plunket, La.

Meeting Crawford's wife and three children, all under twelve years of age, the indictment charged, that the captives were sold to F. Hurst, a farmer of the Plunket section for \$20.

The five were forced to work without wages for weeks under armed guard, the jury charged.

PROSECUTIONS FOR PEONAGE

Recent news accounts from New Orleans indicate that the United States authorities have uncovered several new cases of peonage, which show that the practice is still a source of profit in the primary districts of Louisiana and Mississippi. Seven true bills were returned by the grand jury against the owners of a Mississippi plantation, for forcing Negroes to work on pay fictitious debts. This was in Amite county, where two men were alleged to have persuaded an entire Negro family.

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Previous investigations have revealed the existence of various forms of peonage in the country districts of Georgia and Florida, and the Federal authorities through the Department of Justice have kept up a continual war against the practice. But the old institution of human slavery dies hard it appears, and in the backward sections of the South the theory of emancipation has not yet become a reality. There is need for all the forces of the national government to be exerted in order to make the presidential proclamation of 1863 a living fact in all sections of the country.

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caused the Department of Justice to keep up its unrelenting campaign against peonage, which is only another form of slavery. It is in order for Congress to enact similar legislation for the enforcement of the Fourteenth and Fifteenth amendments, which guarantee the rights of citizenship and the franchise to all persons born or naturalized in the United States.

Until all the guaranties of the Constitution are enacted into law and duly enforced

FEB 3 1927

U. S. OPENS PROBE OF NEGRO SLAVES IN LOUISIANA

Indictments Indicate That Many Are Held in Peonage

NEW ORLEANS, La., Feb. 3 (A. P.)—Black slavery, comparable to that which existed "down the river" in post-bellum times, was the object of an extended investigation to-day by Department of Justice agents.

The indictment yesterday of Webb Bellue and John D. Alford of Amite County, Miss., on charges of abduction, sale and enslavement of five Negroes is to be followed by disclosures of peonage in St. Helena and Tangipahoa Parishes in Louisiana, if evidence now in the hands of the United States District Attorney here proves substantial, officials said.

Alford and Webb were indicted on testimony that they had gone to the home of Crawford Allen, fifty-year-old Negro, near the Louisiana border in Amite County, Miss., last August, seeking his grown daughter. When they failed to find the woman, the white men, according to the indictment, forced Allen to get out of a sick bed and accompany them to a farm at Fluker, La. They also forced his wife and three children, all under twelve, to accompany them. The Negroes were taken at night and hurried from their homes half clad.

The family was sold for \$20, Department of Justice agents charge, and forced to work several weeks without pay and with little food. An armed guard watched the Negroes.

Investigation of the case has revealed the alleged existence of peonage conditions under which other Negroes are held in a state of virtual enslavement, officials said.

FEB 3 1927

5 Negroes Sold For \$20 After Work as Slaves

2 White Men Indicted in New Orleans Under Peonage Act for Spiriting Family From Mississippi

Special to the Herald Tribune

NEW ORLEANS, La., Feb. 2.—A tale of ante-bellum slavery, rivaling the exploits of the "black ivory" hunters of Africa was revealed here to-day following the indictment of two men. They are accused of stealing a Negro family of five persons, forcing them to work without pay under the muzzles of gun and finally selling them "body and soul" for \$20.

A Federal grand jury to-day handed down indictments against Webb Bellue and John D. Alford, of Amite County, Mississippi, charging violation of the Peonage act.

The indictment, according to Federal officials, bares an incident of flagrant peonage conditions where Negroes are kept in slavery without a pretense of arrangements for the "working out" penalties imposed under local ordinance.

Agents of the Department of Justice are said to have provided the United States Attorney's office with information relating to peonage conditions in St. Helena and Tangipahoa parishes, in Louisiana, and in Amite County, Mississippi, along the line of the former "West Florida" boundary.

Many cases of actual enslavement are said to have been found where a vestige of legal procedure has served to cloak the operations of farmers who have kept Negroes in enforced servitude without paying them for their services, according to the United States Attorney's office.

Peace officers and local magistrates

have "frequently farmed out" Negroes, who lacked the understanding and means to obtain defenses against the imposition of local ordinances under which they have been arrested for mythical violations, government agents said.

In August last year, the indictment charges, Bellue and Alford went to the

home of Crawford Allen, a fifty-year-old Negro, near the Louisiana boundary, in Amite County, Miss., and, after searching for a grown daughter of the Negro, forced him to get out of a sick bed and prepare to accompany them to Fluker. As the pair started away they forced Anna Allen, wife of the Negro, to come with them at the point of guns and also took along Teellie, Lewis and Myra Allen, children of the couple, all of whom were under twelve years of age.

Worked Without Pay

According to government agents, Bellue and Alford did not permit their captives to don their clothing, but took them away in the night time, half clad and without food or personal effects. Forcing their captives into an automobile, Bellue and Alford are alleged to have crossed the state line into Tangipahoa Parish and driven to a farm near Fluker, La.

Crawford and his family were forced to work for weeks without pay, having little clothing and no means of escaping from their involuntary servitude after the relaxation of an alleged armed guard placed over them after their abduction in August.

The indictment charges that the Crawford family was sold to a farmer in the Fluker section for \$20 and were finally released when the knowledge of their plight came to the notice of the Federal authorities.

NEW YORK CITY SUN and GLOBE

FEB 3 1927

SLAVERY CHARGED NEAR NEW ORLEANS

Sale of Negro Family for \$20 Being Investigated.

NEW ORLEANS, Feb. 3 (A. P.)—Black slavery, comparable to that which existed "down the river" in ante-bellum times, was the object of an extended investigation to-day by Department of Justice agents.

The indictment yesterday of Webb Bellue and John D. Alford of Amite County, Mississippi, on charges of abduction, sale and enslavement of five negroes is to be followed by disclosure of peonage in St. Helena and Tangipahoa parishes in Louisiana, if evidence now in the hands of the United States District Attorney here proves substantial, officials said.

Alford and Webb were indicted on testimony that they had gone to the home of Crawford Allen, 50 year old negro, near the Louisiana border in Amite county, Mississippi, last August, seeking his grown daughter. When they failed to find the negro woman,

he white men, according to the indictment, forced Allen to get out of a sick bed and accompany them to a farm at Fluker, La. They also forced his wife and three children, all under 12 years of age, to accompany them. The negroes were taken at night and hurried from their home half clad.

The family was sold for \$20, Department of Justice agents charge, and forced to work several weeks without pay and with little food. An armed guard watched the negroes.

Investigation of the case has revealed the alleged existence of peonage conditions under which other negroes are held in a state of virtual enslavement, officials said.

BROOKLYN EAGLE

FEB 3 1927

NEGRO SLAVERY IN SOUTH STIRS INQUIRY BY U. S.

More Peonage Revealed as Pair Are Arrested for Selling Five Blacks.

New Orleans, La., Feb. 3 (A. P.)—Black slavery, comparable to that which existed "down the river" in ante-bellum times, was the object of an extended investigation today by Department of Justice agents.

The indictment yesterday of Webb Bellue and John D. Alford of Amite County, Mississippi, on charges of abduction, sale and enslavement of five negroes is to be followed by disclosure of peonage in St. Helena and Tangipahoa parishes in Louisiana, if evidence now in the hands of the United States District Attorney here proves substantial, officials said.

Alford and Bellue are said to have gone to the home of Crawford Allen, 50-year-old negro, last August and forced him and his wife and three children, all under 12 years of age, to accompany them to a farm at Fluker, La. The negroes were taken at night and hurried from their home half-clad.

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Journal

FEB 3 1927

NEGRO SLAVERY IS BEING PROBED AT NEW ORLEANS

Two Men Face Peonage Indictments In St. Helena and Tangipahoa Parishes.

NEW ORLEANS, LA., Feb. 3.—(A. P.)—Slavery was the subject of an extended investigation today by agents of the department of justice.

The indictments yesterday of Webb Bellue and John D. Alford, of Amite county, Miss., on charges of abduction, sale and enslavement of five negroes is to be followed by further investigations into charges of peonage in St. Helena and Tangipahoa parishes in Louisiana, department of justice officials said.

The two men indicted are alleged to have gone to the home of Crawford Allen, a 50-year-old negro of Amite county, last August and forced him to get out of a sick bed and accompany them to a farm at Fluker, La. As they left the house they also forced his wife and three children, all under 12 years old, to accompany them.

According to the government agents, the abduction took place at night and the negroes were not allowed time to put on all their clothes, but were forced to make the trip half clothed.

The department of justice operatives say that the negroes were sold for \$20 and forced to work for several weeks without pay and with little food for several weeks, being watched, during the period, by an armed guard. There was no hint of the "work out" system in this case, the agents charged.

Acting United States Attorney Talbot has refused to comment on the case.

Labor.— 1927

Peonage

SLAVERY IN THE SOUTHERN STATES

A NEWS dispatch from New Orleans, dated February 7, to the New York Sun, says: "Slavery was abolished below the Mason-Dixon line some sixty-six years ago, but the ironies of Fate have chosen a most auspicious occasion—the very eve of the Great Emancipator's birthday—to broadcast the startling allegations that the ancient custom of buying and selling Negroes is being practiced on a wide scale in rural sections of Louisiana and Mississippi." Several cases of peonage are cited and the report says, further, that, "Federal authorities intimate that the custom of peonage among ignorant Negro farm hands in the cotton belt is widely practiced and a complete investigation was ordered by the grand jury." Two planters have already been indicted upon the evidence of two sheriffs who participated in slavery conspiracy and turned State's evidence. If often happens that, according to the old saying, "When thieves fall out honest men get their just deserts."

The Federal Constitution specially provides in article thirteen of the amendments that "Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction. Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation." In spite of this prohibition, slavery in one form and another has prevailed on a large or small scale ever since the abolition of slavery. Many of the Southern States have so framed their labor laws as to subject the Negro convicts to a form of slavery, and minor officers of the law have in many cases connived at the abduction of Negroes for purposes of enforced labor, as they were directly interested or well paid for the dirty work. It is peculiarly the business of the Federal Government to search out and punish those who violate the thirteenth amendment, and ever since its adoption the government has made a show of doing its duty in this respect.

It is the duty of every member of the Universal Negro Improvement Association to co-operate with the agencies of the government in effort to search out and punish those who engage in the work of others, Negroes for the most part, for selfish gain. If the condition of peonage exists it should be exposed in one way or another and so brought to the attention of the government so that it shall be apprehended and punished by due

Louisiana.

NEW YORK
SUN and GLOBE

FEB 7 1927

Slavery Unmasked in the South

Recent Revelations of the Sale of Negroes in Louisiana and Mississippi.

Special Dispatch to THE SUN.

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NEW ORLEANS, Feb. 7.—Slavery was abolished below the Mason-Dixon line some sixty-six years ago, but the ironies of fate have chosen a most auspicious occasion—the very eve of the Great Emancipator's birthday—to broadcast the startling allegations that the ancient custom of buying and selling negroes is being practiced on a wide scale in rural sections of Louisiana and Mississippi.

Two cases of peonage or virtual enslavement, discovered by agents of the Department of Justice, resulted in the arrest and indictment this week of four men, two of whom are wealthy plantation owners in Amite county, Miss.)

Federal authorities intimate that the custom of peonage among ignorant negro farm hands in the cotton belt is widely practiced and a complete investigation, with the probability of further indictments, was ordered by the Grand Jury now in session here.

'Arrested for Debt.'

Joseph C. Anders and Loomie Blumfield, the two plantation owners already in the hands of the Federal Government, were unmasked when two Sheriffs who participated in the "slavery" conspiracy turned State's evidence and were used as Government witnesses in the Grand Jury probe.

According to the testimony, the two agriculturalists caused the Deputy Sheriffs to arrest a negro at his home in Tangipahoa parish, Louisiana, for a debt which the two men claimed the negro owed them, and to avoid threatened jail sentence the negro is said to have agreed to work out the debt on the plantations. He was "smuggled" by automobile across the Louisiana-Mississippi State line.

Webb Bellue and John D. Alford, also of Amite county, were indicted on charges of having sold Crawford Allen, fifty-year-old negro; his wife and three children for \$20. In this case it is charged that the two men seized the negro and his family for an alleged debt and transported them to their plantation, La., where they

Connivance Charged.

Before the civil war negroes were publicly offered to the highest bidder from the auctioneer's block. To-day, the Federal grand jurors were told, the same bartering is practiced, but with modern variations along lines made popular in smuggling and rum running circles. In many instances, it is said, the act is made possible by the connivance of parish police officials.

At night the victims are "arrested" on alleged debts. They are given their choice of going to jail or of paying the debt in service to their supposed creditors. Then they are whisked away from their usual habitats and are put to work on plantations or farms far removed from the locality in which the alleged debt was contracted.

For many months the Federal authorities have been investigating this twentieth century slavery, and additional evidence will be forthcoming, it is said, in continued deliberations of the Grand Jury within the next week.

'SLAVE' TACTICS BARED IN MISS.

NEW ORLEANS, La., Feb. 3.—

Charges of wholesale practice of ancient slave tactics in Amite County, Mississippi, were being investigated by federal officers out of New Orleans Thursday, following the indictment of two men late Wednesday by the federal grand jury on charges of violating the peonage act.

The two men, Webb Bellue and John D. Alford, are specifically charged with abduction, sale and enslavement of a family of five negroes.

Federal officers say they have evidence that the two men went to the home of Crawford Allen, 50, negro, near the Louisiana border in Mississippi, and after seizing the negro, his daughter, wife and two small children took them to F. Hurst, plantation owner, and sold them for \$20.

The five were forced to work without wages under no pretense of the "working out" system for several weeks, declare federal officers.

NEGRO SLAVERY STILL PRACTISED BY LA. PLANTERS

Two Whites Arrested For Enslaving Family

NEW ORLEANS, La., Feb. 3.—Charges of wholesale practice of ancient slave tactics in Amite county, Miss., were being investigated by federal officers out of New Orleans today, following the indictment of two men by the federal grand jury on charges of violating the Peonage act.

The men, Webb Bellue and John D. Alford were specifically charged with abduction, sale and enslavement of a family of five Negroes.

Federal officers said they have evidence that the two men went to the home of Crawford Allen, 50, Negro, near the Louisiana border in Mississippi and after seizing the Negro, his daughter, wife and two small children took them to F. Hurst, plantation owner, and sold them for \$20.

The five were forced to work without wages for several weeks, federal officers declared.

Federal investigators said they also learned that many families of Negroes are being worked in that section under pretense of farm-hands or share croppers, while they are virtually slaves and live under worse conditions than slaves before the Civil War.

FOUR ARRESTED FOR ENSLAVING NEGRO DEBTORS

Southern Planters Sell Whole Family for \$20

FLUKER, La., Feb. 7.—Several cases of interstate commerce in Negro slaves have just been brought to the attention of special agents of the Department of Justice in Louisiana and Mississippi. It is common knowledge thruout this section that peonage flourishes, but arrests are unusual.

Joseph C. Anders and Loomie Blumenfeld, two wealthy plantation owners of Amite County, Miss., are in the hands of the federal government, and have already been indicted. They are charged with causing deputy sheriffs to arrest a Negro at his home in Tangipahoa Parish, La., for a debt which they claimed he owed them. His denials were overlooked, and finally, it is said, he consented to avoid a severe jail sentence by working out the "debt" on a plantation owned by the men. They smuggled him over the state line in an automobile. The sheriffs have confessed.

Sold Whole Family.

Webb Bellue and John D. Alfred, owners of a plantation in Amite County, Miss., and also of a farm at Fluker, La., are indicted for seizing in the same quasi-legal manner a Negro named Crawford Allen and his family, whom they placed at forced labor on their own farm. After several weeks, evidence indicates they sold the fifty-year-old man and his wife and three children for \$20.

These cases follow the regular method of enforcing peonage in the country districts of the South. Negroes are arrested for debt or for vagrancy, then turned over to white planters who accept the debt or pay the vagrancy fine, the Negro "agreeing" to work off the amount owed. If he runs away he can be brought back by peace officers for

"attempting to abscond, leaving bills unpaid." There is no way in which the planters can be forced to pay any wages, and as a result, the debt usually continues to grow indefinitely.

'PEONAGE AND LYNCHING ARE BLOOD BROTHERS'

(Preston News Service)

It is certainly refreshing and encouraging to have such strong, capable and fearless men as Oswald Garrison Villard constantly saying things against the rank injustices many of his race practice against oppressed people. All his life he has been a strong advocate for justice and fair-play. He has constantly and consistently fought for the rights of the Negro, in his weekly magazine, THE NATION. We reproduce an editorial that appeared in the Nation under date of February 16:

Peonage and Lynching are blood brothers. A federal grand jury has brought indictments against two Mississippi farmers for violation of the Peonage law, and the investigation in that State and in Louisiana has only just begun. The system of enslavement is simple and effective; Negro tenant farmers have no money; the plantation stores are ready to furnish credit, payment for goods purchased to be made out of the proceeds of the crop. No accounts are kept, and when the season is over the Negro finds that he owes the plantation owner money which he must take out of his work the following year. Negroes who protest are, if the owner is a polite and generous hearted fellow, kicked quietly outdoors. More drastic action, however, has been known to result from too much temerity. When the black man is illiterate, impoverished, and ignorant of his civil rights he has no protection whatever from this sort of exploitation. And lynching is only one step away. The latest mob murder—as we go to press—took place on February 1 in Texas. Famed for cutting a white man's throat, a Negro was sent by the sheriff, who feared "foul play," in an automobile with two deputies to the nearest town where proper protection might be expected. All the usual things happened and the Negro was

hanged. The mob was unmasked; a young woman in town, according to the Houston Press, said she knew three hours before that the lynchers was to take place and was sorry that her work prevented her from attending. The sheriff declared that he was "making every effort to find the leaders of the mob," but, "it is very difficult. There were many strangers in town (Conroe, Texas, population about 500) that day, and no one was able to get a good description of the men."

'Slavery Abounds In South;' Johnson

Race Leader Tells Of Drastic State Of Affairs On Plantations

NEW YORK, Feb. 10.—Peonage conditions prevail among rural Negroes in many parts of the South, it was asserted Thursday by James Weldon Johnson, secretary of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

Commenting on the report that two white men were indicted at New Orleans for selling a Race family of five into slavery, Mr. Johnson added that the indictment "only brings this peonage to light in a particularly flagrant form." "The procedure employed," he said "to keep Negro tenants in debt slavery is roughly as follows: The Negro agrees to cultivate land and raise a crop, paying for his rent and advances of money and supplies until the crop is grown by the proceeds of the crop."

"In many localities where Negro tenants are helpless to protest they are never given itemized statements. Their crop is sold and they are simply presented with a statement showing them to be in debt. This is continued from year to year and many tenants are never out of debt. If they try to escape or leave they are imprisoned and fined."

Louisianan Sentenced on Charges of Peonage

New Orleans, March 4.—John D. Alford, alias "Speedy" Alford, of St. Helena parish, serving a sentence in the Tangipahoa parish jail, faces an additional six months' sentence on charges of peonage. He was sentenced recently by Judge W. L. Grubb in United States district court. Alford was convicted on charges of holding members of our group as farm laborers in a state of peonage and then selling them to others. Webb Bellou, indicted with Alford, will be tried at a later

62 Years After

WHEN ABRAHAM LINCOLN died he did not know that sixty-two years later the United States would still be trying to wipe out the last vestiges of slavery in several of the Southern States. Yet, that is the case.

INVESTIGATIONS in Louisiana and Mississippi recently have revealed peonage conditions so abominable that they amount to virtual slavery. Nor did the Emancipator know that the three amendments attached to the United States Constitution during his administrations would be practically inoperative in most of the South today.

NEGROES everywhere will take part in the celebration of his birth this Saturday, and it is entirely fitting that they should do so. The injustices heaped upon the Negro since Lincoln's death cannot be attributed to him. He did his best during his life to mete out justice to all citizens of the country, regardless of race or creed, and when he died it is reasonable to conclude that he thought his noble work would be carried on. Even the party behind whose banner he was raised to the Presidency has deserted most of the principles he laid down.

Labor-1927

Peonage

N. Y.

HERALD TRIBUNE

FEB 4 1927

Slavery Inquiry Likely to Bring New Indictments

Federal Investigators Reveal Case of 2 Accused of Selling Mississippi Negroes Is Typical Incident There

Special to the Herald Tribune

NEW ORLEANS, Feb. 2.—Additional Federal indictments as a result of the Department of Justice investigation of alleged peonage conditions prevailing in St. Helena and Tangipahoa Parishes and Amite County, Miss., were predicted in official circles to-day although government agents withheld details of the findings in cases known to have been investigated.

The Federal Grand Jury is to hold a session to-morrow when, it is expected, evidence relating to alleged peonage will be presented by Acting United States Attorney Talbot, who is directing an inquiry into actual slavery involving Negroes in the farming sections.

No report had been received at the office of United States Marshal Victor Loisel as to the success of deputies who are said to be searching for Webb Bellue, and John D. Alford, indicted Wednesday for the abduction and enslavement of Crawford Allen, Mississippi Negro, his wife and three children, who were sold for \$20 to a Fluker, La., farmer. Alford is under bond of \$2,000 to appear before the United States Court, but Bellue has not been apprehended.

New Yorker Explains "Slave Plan"

Medieval slavery conditions prevail among rural Negroes in many parts of the South, it was asserted yesterday by James Weldon Johnson, secretary of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

Commenting to The Associated Press on the report that two white men had been indicted at New Orleans for selling a Negro family of five into slavery, Mr. Johnson added that the indictment "only brings this peonage to light in a particularly flagrant form."

"The procedure employed," he said, "to keep Negro tenants in debt slavery is roughly as follows: The Negro agrees to cultivate land and raise a crop, paying for his rent and advances of money and supplies until the crop is grown by the proceeds of the crop. In many localities where Negro tenants

are helpless to protest they are never given itemized statements. Their crop is sold and they are simply presented with a statement showing them to be in debt. This continues from year to year and many tenants are never out of debt. If they try to escape or leave they are imprisoned and fined."

PEONAGE CHARGE LAID.

Planter Blythe Said to Be Holding Negroes and Children.

CLARKSDALE, Miss., Jan. 8.—W. W. Blythe, planter of Lake Cormorant, Miss., was released on bond in federal court here today on a charge of having violated the peonage act. He is charged with holding a negro, Viola Neal, and her children without her consent.

Mr. Blythe was arrested on a warrant sworn out by D. A. Rochelle of Sledge, well known planter. Rochelle contends that last Saturday he went to the plantation of Blythe to move Viola and her family to his plantation and that Blythe refused to let them leave. Andrew Neal, husband of Viola, is said to have escaped that night and given out information against the planter.

Blythe was released on a \$1,000 bond for his appearance at a preliminary hearing at a later date.

PLANTER BOUND OVER FOR ALLEGED PEONAGE

Charged With Retaining Negroes Against Their Will.

CLARKSDALE, Miss., Jan. 14.—W. W. Blythe, well known planter of Lake Cormorant, Mississippi, was bound over to await the action of the grand jury here this morning at 11 o'clock on a charge of peonage, which was heard before Mrs. Celia Cook Davis, United States commissioner. His bond was fixed at \$10,000 and was signed by Ben K. Allen, J. D. Magruder, W. O. White and Mr. Cheatham.

Mr. Blythe was arrested several days ago when a warrant was sworn out by G. A. Rochelle, plantation manager for Bruce Newton at Sledge. Mr. Blythe is charged with having violated the peonage act in holding Andrew Neal and his wife, Viola, negroes, against their will on his plantation.

Mr. Rochelle was the first witness placed on the stand by United States District Attorney J. H. Cook. Mr. Rochelle declared that he sent a negro driver named Curtis Neal to the Blythe plantation on Jan. 1 to move Andrew and Viola. He stated that Mr. Blythe struck his truck driver on the head with a gun, detained the driver and held his truck until the following day. Rochelle testified that

Blythe told him that the negro was going to stay and make a crop with him in 1927, "unless he left in an airplane." Rochelle testified that Blythe told him that the negro owed him \$328 and that the negro could not be moved until the account was paid.

Andrew was the next witness placed on the stand. He stated that he had a settlement with Mr. Blythe and "he didn't like his counts." He said he said something about moving and Mr. Blythe told him he couldn't move until he paid him \$328. On cross-examination Andrew was asked if he was attempting to move a stove that was loaned him by Mr. Blythe and he declared that he bought the stove. He said he had made no contract to work for him during 1927. Andrew said when he saw Mr. Blythe approaching with a gun that he made his getaway.

Mr. Blythe was defended by Attorneys J. D. MaGruder of Tunica and Dave Allen of Lake Cormorant. The defendant was placed on the stand. He testified that he had no conversation with Rochelle about moving the negro. He stated that Rochelle did not come to see him; and try to learn whether or not the negro was in debt. Blythe testified that Andrew had contracted with him for 1927 and on the strength of this that he had given him Christmas money, let him have two pairs of shoes and rations on the day that he attempted to move.

Tom Logan and Jim Martin, negroes, testified that Andrew had told them he was satisfied with his settlement and intended to remain on the Blythe place another year. The defense sought to show that Rochelle attempted to entice Andrew away and that the move was planned after dark.

The case will be presented to the grand jury when it convenes in January in Clarksdale.

Southern Planter Held On Peonage Charge

Clarksdale, Miss., Jan. 27.—(By A. N. P.)—W. W. Blythe, a white planter, has been bound over to await the action of the United States grand jury on a charge of peonage in bonds of \$10,000. It is alleged that Blythe detained two Negroes named "Andrews," and "Viola," on his plantation claiming he had advanced them Christmas money, two pair of shoes, and rations, and had not been reimbursed. The law in Mississippi is that if a planter advances money to a Negro, the Negro

cannot leave the plantation until such sum has been repaid.

CHARGED WITH PEONAGE.

CLARKSDALE, Miss., April 4.—D. Orlando Ringold, plantation owner, and Charles Sims, plantation manager, of Clarksdale, Miss., Sunflower County, gave bond for their appearance at the federal court here on a charge of violating the peonage act. The two were charged with holding a negro, Viola Neal, and her children without her consent. The two were charged with holding a negro, Viola Neal, and her children without her consent. The two were charged with holding a negro, Viola Neal, and her children without her consent.

NEGROES HELD IN PEONAGE IN FLOOD REGION

Walter White Reports Landlords Virtually Hold Tenant Farmers Slaves

FORCED TO WORK AT POINT OF BAYONETS

Many Prefer To Go Without Food Than Return To Farms

New York.—Negroes held in peonage in the Mississippi flood area, and prevented from leaving concentration camps without the consent of their landlords, also attempts to charge Negro tenants with the flood relief administered in the area reported by Walter White, Assistant Secretary of the N. A. A. C. P., who has returned from a tour including Memphis, Jackson, Vicksburg, New Orleans and other points in the flood area.

Mr. White reports instances of Negroes escaping refugee camps and preferring to go without food, shel-

ter and clothing, rather than be returned to the plantations from which the flood had driven them. Mr. White released the following statement today:

Places Visited

"In response to complaints of peonage in the Mississippi flood area, I went to that territory and in my tour visited Memphis, Vicksburg, Jackson, New Orleans, and other places in the flooded region. At Memphis, I talked with Dr. William R. Redden, Chief Medical Officer for the Red Cross in the Flood Area. Dr. Redden authorized me to quote him as follows:

The Red Cross emphatically disapproves of any attempts to use this disaster by landlords further to enslave Negro tenant farmers and share croppers. Aid is given directly to the individual sufferer. It would be an interesting problem to see that attempts by landlords and others to charge relief against tenants are checked when such relief is given to refugees after they have returned to their homes.

Released to Landlord

"In many refugee camps, however, Negroes are released only to 'their' landlords and are sent back to the plantations from which they came. This fact was confirmed to me by General Curtis T. Morgan, commanding officer at Vicksburg, of the Mississippi National Guard troops who are keeping order in the area, by entering registration from parts of Sunflower, Bolivar, Yazoo, Warren and Holmes Counties and all of Issaquena, Sharkey, Washington and Humphreys Counties. General Green told me that plantation owners come to the camps to pick out 'their Negroes' and that labor agents are kept from the camps 'no man being permitted to talk to any other but his own Negroes.'

Slavery

"The extent of virtual imprisonment of Negro flood sufferers to prevent escape from the plantation areas is attested in a dispatch from Cleveland, Mississippi, published in the Vicksburg Evening Post of May 5th, in which it is stated:

A meeting of the executive

Inch by inch as the water recedes leaving behind it a loam which greatly enriches the already fertile lands in this section the negroes will smear in cotton seed. With mud sometimes very near knee deep on the plantations the negroes who have in past years passed through other floods will "splash" their way about smearing

Labor - 1927

Peonage

NEW YORK
JOURNAL

JUN 20 1927

FLOOD 'SLAVERY' STIRS PROTEST

Stirred by reports from the South that negro refugees from the flooded areas are being held against their will, negroes of this city met to form a protest in the Abyssinian Baptist Church, One Hundred and Thirty-eighth street, near Seventh avenue.

The meeting was under the auspices of the local branch of the American Negro Labor Congress.

C. Jacloman, a negro, in support of the charge made that negroes were held in involuntary servitude, read an order, purporting to have been issued by Mississippi authorities, instructing the National Guard to detain all negroes refugees in relief camps.

URGE MEASURES TO CURB DIXIE FLOOD 'SLAVERY'

NEW YORK.—Declaring that forcible means had been used in the flood area compelling Negro farm hands and sharecroppers to return to their former homes and proposing organization as a panacea for segregation, lynching and disfranchisement, speakers at a protest meeting at Abyssinian Baptist Church read drastic action here.

The meeting, which is said to have reflected the communistic philosophy of Soviet Russia, was organized by Lovett Forte Whiteman, under the auspices of the American Negro Labor Congress, and the speakers included George Bellam, secretary of the Textile National Workers' committee and other labor leaders.

The condition in the delta was likened to Russia before the present regime by one of the speakers, who declared "that the Constitution of the United States provides that no person can be prevented from going wherever he sees fit, but here we have the state militia of Mississippi holding Negroes in relief camps against their will."

PEONS HELD IN FLOOD AREA

Walter White Makes
Personal Survey Of
Conditions

TENANTS GUARDED

Special to the Journal and Guide

New York, June 1.—Negroes held in peonage in the Mississippi flood area, and prevented from leaving concentration camps without the consent of their landlords, also attempts to charge Negro tenants with the flood relief administered to them, are reported by Walter White, Assistant Secretary of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, who has returned from a tour including Memphis, Jackson, Vicksburg, New Orleans, and other points in the flood area.

Mr. White reports instances of Negroes escaping refugee camps and preferring to go without food, shelter and clothing, rather than to be returned to the plantations from which the flood had driven them. Mr. White released the following statement today at the offices of the N. A. A. C. P.

Mr. White's Statement

"In response to complaints of peonage in the Mississippi flood area, I went to that territory and in my tour visited Memphis, Vicksburg, Jackson, New Orleans, and other places in the flood region. At Memphis, I talked with Dr. William R. Redden, chief medical officer for the Red Cross in the Flood area.

The Red Cross emphatically disapproves of any attempts to use this disaster by landlords further to enslave Negro tenant farmers and share croppers. Aid is given directly to the individual

sufferer. It would be an interesting problem to see that attempts by landlords and others to charge relief against tenants are checked when such relief is given to refugees after they have returned to their homes.

Released Only To Landlords

"In many refugee camps, however, Negroes are released only to 'their' landlords and are sent back to the plantation from which they came. This fact was confirmed to me by General Curtis T. Green, Commanding Officer at Vicksburg of the Mississippi National Guard Troops who are keeping order in the area covering registration from parts of Sunflower, Bolivar, Yazoo, Warren and Holmes Counties and all of Issaquena, Sharkey, Washington and Humphreys counties. General Green told me that plantation owners come to the camps to pick out 'their Negroes' and that labor agents are kept from the camps 'no man being permitted to talk to any other but his own Negroes.'

Virtual Imprisonment

"The extent of virtual imprisonment of Negro flood sufferers to prevent escape from the plantation areas it is attested in a dispatch from Cleveland, Mississippi, published in the Vicksburg Evening Post of May 5, in which it is stated:

A meeting of the executive committee of the Citizens' Relief Committee was held jointly with J. C. McMullen, Director-in-Charge of Red Cross relief work here. The matter of parties, covering a large range of the delta section not overflowed, coming to Cleveland with the view and purpose of being permitted to remove families from the camp and place them on their own plantations, was thoroughly discussed and considered, with the result that the matter of releasing families or individuals to parties other than to the one with whom they have previously contracted for the year, was placed in the hands of V. W. Thomas. Mr. Thomas was instructed by the Committee not to release any family or persons from the camp except on written consent of the landlord from whose plantation the laborers came, or on the personal request or authorization of the landlords.

A Number Escape

"At a number of camps I was told of Negroes eluding guards and escaping, preferring to forego food, shelter, clothing and medical attention rather than go back to the plantations from which the flood waters had driven them. At some of the camps Negroes were being taken out by industrial firms, being checked out of the camps and checked in again when their labors were finished. Most of these men had no objection to working, even though not paid,

but they objected to the beating, cursing and kicking they had to endure. There are also numerous instances of brutality in the treatment of Negroes forced to work on the levees under the guns of soldiers and even white civilians. In many places, notably Greenville and Stop's Landing, Negroes were thus conscripted, among them being an insurance agent, and they were kept at work even when it was plain the levee would break. When the break came, this insurance agent told me he saw some forty or fifty Negroes swept away by the waters, presumably to death. He managed to fight his way back to the levee. He is a graduate of Tuskegee, married, with a child and entirely trustworthy and reputable. He injured his foot in the break of the levee but was put to work on the levee at Greenville, being allowed to obtain treatment for his injury when that levee gave way two days later.

Another Red Cross Statement

"In conclusion I will give one more authorized quotation from Dr. Redden, showing the conditions prevalent in the delta:

Some of the Negroes did not even know that their own bodies belonged to them. When we sought to vaccinate them they said that it could be done only after their plantation bosses gave their permission. When some of these plantation owners objected we had to tell them 'Either you will permit vaccination or we will stop relief.'

"In my talk with responsible heads of the Red Cross I was impressed with their attitude of fairness and impartiality but of course individual subordinates in doing the work do not always act in accordance with the expressed spirit of the Red Cross. The attention of the central administration is being called to the complaints."

REVEALS PEONAGE IN FLOODED AREA

New York, May 31.—The N. A. A. C. P. has received a preliminary report from its assistant secretary, Walter White, who is in the Mississippi flood district investigating reports that the disaster was being used by white landlords to hold colored tenants in peonage.

Mr. White reports he conferred at Red Cross Headquarters in Memphis, with Dr. William R. Redden, Chief Medical Officer for the flood area and that Dr. Redden authorized the following statement:

"The Red Cross emphatically disapproves of any attempts to use this disaster by landlords to enslave further Negro tenant-farmers and share-croppers. Aid is

given directly to the individual sufferer. It will be an interesting problem to see that the attempts by landlords and others to charge relief against tenants are checked when such relief is given to refugees after they have returned to their homes."

N. Y. WORLD

JUN 20 1927

NEGROES PROTEST FLOOD "SLAVERY"

Say Forcible Detention of Black
Refugees in Relief Camps
Amounts to That

ATTACK SOUTH'S PLANTERS

Conditions Like Russia's Before
the Soviet, Is Charge

Soviet Russia's aims and communistic philosophy were reflected by white and Negro speakers yesterday afternoon in Abyssinian Baptist Church, 138th Street, near Seventh Avenue, at what was advertised as a protest meeting against the "forcible holding of Negro labor in the flood district," held under the auspices of the local branch of the American Negro Labor Congress.

The Southern planter who raises cotton and foodstuffs on the crop-sharing basis came in for bitter criticism. A verbal picture of Russia before the present regime was drawn by a speaker who compared the Negro's condition in the South to-day with that of the Jew before the advent of the Soviet Government.

C. Jacloman, a Negro, in support of the charge made that Negroes were held in involuntary servitude, read an order, purporting to have been issued by Mississippi authorities, instructing the National Guard to detain all Negro refugees in relief camps. It was maintained by speakers that the compelling of Negro farm hands and share-croppers to return to their former homes was to prevent them from leaving the State.

George Bellam, Secretary-Treasurer of the Textile National Workers' Committee, advocated organization of the

tion at Chicago in October, 1925, came to New York to tell of the aims and objects of the congress.

the Federal Government has spent millions of dollars and called out the navy to enforce the Eighteenth Amendment which prescribes against giving freedom of thought and action to all citizens. Lovett Fort-Whiteman, leading spirit of the American Negro Labor Congress, who in 1924 traveled through Russia and held a convention of the organiza-

prevented from going wherever he sees fit. But here we have the State militia in Mississippi holding Negroes in relief camps against their will. The Thirteenth, Fourteenth and Fifteenth Amendments to the Constitution were passed primarily to give the Negro freedom of thought and action. Not 1 cent has been expended to enforce these amendments. On the other hand,

black farmers as a panacea for Jim Crowism," segregation, lynching, disfranchisement and all forms of persecution. Eighty per cent. of the crops is the Southland is raised by Negroes, he related. W. L. Patterson, Chairman of the meeting, said in part: "The Constitution of the United States provides that no person can be

JUN 20 1927

PEONS HELD

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TENANTS GUARDED

Walter White Mak Personal Survey Of Conditions

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A Number Escaped

"At a number of camps I was told of Negroes eluding guards and escaping, preferring to forego food, shelter, clothing and medical attention rather than go back to the flood waters from which the flood water-tanks had driven them. At some of the camps Negroes were being taken out by industrial firms, being checked in out of the camps and checked in again when their labors were finished. Most of these men had no objection to working, even though not paid.

but they objected to the beating, cursing and kicking they had to endure. There are also numerous instances of brutality in the treatment of Negroes forced to work on the levees, under the guns of soldiers and even white civilians. In many places, notably Greenville and Stop's Landing, Negroes were thus conscripted, among them being an insurance agent, and they were kept at work even when it was plain the levee would break. When the break came, this insurance agent told me he saw some forty or fifty Negroes swept away by the waters, presumably to death. He managed to fight his way back to the levee. He is a graduate of Tuskegee, married, with a child and entirely truthworthy and reputable. He injured his foot in the break of the levee but was put to work on the levee at Greenville, being allowed to obtain treatment for his injury when that levee gave way two days later.

Another Red Cross Statement

"In conclusion I will give one more authorized quotation from Dr. Redden, showing the conditions prevalent in the delta:

Some of the Negroes did not even know that their own bodies belonged to them. When we sought to vaccinate them they said that it could be done only after their plantation bosses gave their permission. When some of these plantation owners objected we had to tell them 'Either you will permit vaccination or we will bring relief.'

holding of Negro lab

district," held under the auspices of the local branch of the American Negro Labor Congress.

The Southern planter who raises cotton and foodstuffs on the crop-sharing basis came in for bitter criticism. A verbal picture of Russia before the present regime was drawn by a spokesman who compared the Negro's condition in the South to-day with that of the Jew before the advent of the Soviet Government.

C. Jaelman, a Negro, in support of the charge made that Negroes were held in involuntary servitude, read an order, purporting to have been issued by Mississippi authorities, instructing the National Guard to detain all Negro refugees in relief camps. It was maintained by speakers that the compelling of Negro farm hands and sharecroppers to return to their former homes was to prevent them from leaving the State.

George Bellam, Secretary-Treasurer of the Textile National Workers' Committee, advocated organization of the

given directly to the individual sufferer. It will be an interesting problem to see that the attempts by landlords and others to charge relief against tenants are checked when such relief is given to refugees after they have returned to their homes."

N. Y. WORLD

JUN 20 1927

NEGROES PROTEST
FLOOD "SLAVERY"

Say Forcible Detention of Black Refugees in Relief Camps Amounts to That

ATTACK SOUTH'S PLANTERS

Conditions Like Russia's Before the Soviet, Is Charge

the Federal Government has spent millions of dollars and called out the navy to enforce the Eighteenth Amendment which prescribes against giving freedom of thought and action to all citizens." Lovett Fort-Whiteman, leading spirit of the American Negro Labor Congress, who in 1924 traveled through Russia and held a convention of the organiza-

prevented from going wherever he sees fit. But here we have the State militia in Mississippi holding Negroes in relief camps against their will. The Thirteenth, Fourteenth and Fifteenth Amendments to the Constitution were passed primarily to give the Negro freedom of thought and action. Not 1 cent has been expended to enforce these amendments. On the other hand,

black farmers as a panacea for "Jim Crowism," segregation, lynching, disfranchisement and all forms of persecution. Eighty per cent. of the crops in the Southland is raised by Negroes, he related.

W. L. Patterson, Chairman of the meeting, said in part:

"The Constitution of the United States provides that no person can be

While the conditions caused by the flood in the Mississippi Valley warrant drastic methods, the press despatches indicate that Negroes are getting the brunt of hardship and the least of aid. The south intends to continue imposing the burden of its reconstruction on the Negroes.

History tells over and over again the failure of the attempt of classes to live on the unrequited labor of the masses. The south itself tried the plan before the Civil War. *Kansas City Call* 6-10-27. It freed the slave from his enforced service, but it never lifted the white man out of his mental chains. Even the distribution of provisions gathered by the Red Cross for the refugees in the camps reflected the determination of southern whites to price the service of Negroes at bare existence. Slavery was just that, with the only difference that it had the sanction of the law.

A southern planter, quoted in the Monday daily press says:

"Agriculture depends upon the Negro and the Mexican down here. We cannot do without Negroes; I doubt whether even Mexican labor could take their places. They are born to cotton and to cane. They are trying to leave, some of them. We meet them at the railroad stations and persuade them not to go. We have our own methods and they are not coercive."

This situation demands the interference of the United States government. It has investigated peonage before and punished white men who have forced Negroes to work without an equitable wage, and it should require the Mississippi Valley to share benefits with Negroes just as they share its burdens. Even crises like this flood cannot take from the citizen, his right to bargain for his own labor. During the tornado in Florida whites there justified enforced labor which everywhere in the south means only Negro labor.

In all matters effecting Negroes, the United States government is in the habit of taking the label and not uncovering the facts. But even it is not gullible enough to believe methods free of coercion which persuade a Negro to labor in the mud and water, for an unequal portion of the Red Cross food. President Coolidge through the department of justice needs to look into what is going on in the Mississippi Valley.

Walter White Finds Peonage Rife In Refugee Camps, Bayonets Bar Flood Victims

Refugees Get Out Only When Plantation Agents Pick Out "Their Negroes"

INS. AGENT TELLS OF DEATH OF 40 IN FLOOD WATERS

Men Had Been Kept At Work On Levee Even After It Was Plain It Would Break

NEW YORK—Negroes held in peonage in the Mississippi flood area, and prevented from leaving concentration camps without the consent of their landlords, also attempts to charge Negro tenants with theft of food administered to them, are reported by Walter White, assistant secretary of the N. A. A. C. P. Mr. White has returned from a tour of the flood area.

He reports instances of Negroes escaping refugee camps and preferring to go without food, shelter and clothing rather than be returned to the plantations from which the flood had driven them. Mr. White released the following statement today at the Association's offices:

Four Big Cities

"In response to complaints of peonage in the Mississippi flood area, I went to that territory and in my tour visited Memphis, Vicksburg, Jackson, New Orleans, and other places in the flooded region. At Memphis, I talked with Dr. William R. Redden, chief medical officer for the Red Cross in the flood area. Dr. Redden authorized me to quote him as follows:

The Red Cross emphatically disapproves of any attempt to use this disaster by landlords further to enslave Negro tenant farmers and share croppers. Aid is given directly to the individual sufferer. It would be an interesting problem to see that attempts by landlords and others to charge their relief against tenants are checked when such relief is given to refugees after they have returned to their homes.

Released To Landlords

"In many refugee camps, however, Negroes are released only to their landlords and are sent back to the plantation from which they came. This fact was confirmed to me by

General Curtis T. Green, commanding officer at Vicksburg of the Mississippi National Guard troops who are keeping order in the area covering registration from parts of Sunflower, Bolivar, Yazoo, Warren and Holmes Counties and all of Issaquena, Sharkey, Washington and Humphreys Counties. General Green told me that plantation owners come to the camps to pick out 'their Negroes' and that labor agents are kept from the camps 'no man being permitted to talk to any other but his own Negroes.'

Virtual Imprisonment

"The extent of virtual imprisonment of Negro flood sufferers to prevent escape from the plantation areas is attested in a despatch from Cleveland, Mississippi, published in the Vicksburg Evening Post, of May 5, in which it is stated:

A meeting of the executive committee of the Citizens' Relief Committee was held jointly with J. C. McMullen, director-in-charge of Red Cross relief work here. The matter of parties, covering a wide range of the delta section not overflowed, coming to Cleveland with the view and purpose of being permitted to remove families from the camp and place them on their own plantations, was thoroughly discussed and considered, with the result that the matter of releasing families or individuals to parties other than to the one with whom they have previously contracted for the year, was placed in the hands of V. W. Thomas.

Mr. Thomas was instructed by the committee not to release any family or persons from the camp

except on written consent of the landlord from whose plantation the laborers came, or on the personal request or authorization of the landlords.

Refugees Escape

"At a number of camps I was told of Negroes eluding guards and escaping, preferring to forego food, shelter, clothing and medical attention rather than go back to the plantations from which the flood waters had driven them. At some of the camps Negroes were being taken out by industrial firms, being checked in again when their labors were finished. Most of these men had no objection to working, even though not paid, but they objected to the beating, cursing and kicking they had to endure.

Brutality

"There are also numerous instances of brutality in the treatment of Negroes forced to work on the levees under the guns of soldiers and even white civilians. In many places, notably Greenville and Stop's Landing, Negroes were thus conscripted, among them being an insurance agent, and they were kept at work even when it was plain the levee would break.

40 Carried Away

"When the break came, this insurance agent told me how he saw some forty of fifty Negroes swept away by the waters, presumably to death. He managed to fight his way back to the levee. He is a graduate of Tuskegee, married, with a child and entirely trustworthy and reputable. He injured his foot in the break of the levee but was put to work on the levee at Greenville, being allowed to obtain treatment for his injury only when that levee gave away two days later.

Did Not Know They Owned Bodies

"In conclusion I will give one more authorized quotation from Dr. Redden, showing the conditions prevalent in the delta:

Some of the Negroes did not even know that their own bodies belonged to them. When we sought to vaccinate them they said that it could be done only after their plantation bosses gave their permission. When some of these plantation owners objected we had to tell them 'Either you will permit vaccination, or we will stop relief.'

Red Cross Ignorant

"In my talk with responsible heads of the Red Cross I was impressed with their attitude of fairness and impartiality but of course individual subordinates in doing the work do not always act in accordance with the expressed spirit of the Red Cross. The attention of the central administration is being called to the complaints."

Peonage

THE GREAT MISSISSIPPI FLOOD EXPOSES PEONAGE



As a result of the flood, Negro slavery, which has existed for years in the South, was discovered to be still flourishing, and interfered with the saving of the Negro residents of flooded districts.

Flood Refugees Are Held as Slaves in Mississippi Camp

Men Who Escaped Death in Government Controlled Area Describe Viciousness of Southern Whites Ruling Workers

By IDA B. WELLS-BARNETT

Last week's issue of the Defender had a letter from one of the men in Greenville, Miss., which claimed to tell of the conditions in the camps which are still being maintained only for our people in Greenville, Nat-

chez and several other places. Naturally the question arose in the minds of thinking people: "Why are Colored camps?" "Why are hundreds of thousands of our people herded in camps, instead of being provided for in houses, where they and their families

can be helped as are the white refugees, and live together as families should do?" "Why must Colored people only be forced to work on the levees for \$1 per day at the point of a gun before they can get rations?" "And why can't the Race, who are 90 per cent of the actual flood sufferers, share in that \$14,000,000 relief fund which the country sent freely to the flooded district?"

All these are pertinent questions which every one of the 12,000,000 people of our Race in this country should be asking themselves and using their brains to find answers for. Then, after they get the answers they should get busy in an effort to have the whole country know the facts and use their power to have these conditions changed.

Only Race Can Act

Nobody else is going to do anything about it if we don't. So far the Defender is the only journal which is making any protest that I can see. Already some of our people have told Secretary Hoover and others who can correct these evils, that everything is all right; that Mrs. Barnett is a radical and that nobody pays any attention to her, as she is seeking notoriety. Even the "Colored committees' reports do not confirm the statements you mention," says Secretary Hoover, and the people of our race in Pine Bluff, Ark., are giving Mr. Hoover a loving cup in appreciation of his "good work" for them, while their own people are being treated like slaves.

I have had letters, phone calls and personal commendation for the things I have tried to tell in this column. But when I ask these persons if they have passed resolutions asking investigations of these camps and recommending better protection for our Race in their clubs, churches, lodges and fraternal societies and sent them to President Coolidge, Secretary Hoover, the National Red Cross, Senator Charles S. Deneen, Congressman Madden, they invariably say no. They do not seem to realize that it is their job to back up what the Defender and I have said about these intolerable conditions. The only way to bring public opinion to action is for those whose race is suffering to cry aloud, and keep on crying aloud until something is done. It will require the combined influence of all our people in the North, East and West, where our votes count, to put a stop to the slavery that is going on right now in the government camps in Arkansas, Mississippi and Louisiana. All the Defender and I can do is to tell the Race about these conditions. It is up to you who have the power of organizations to keep on with resolutions and demands until those helpless people of our Race down there are no longer held in captivity in the government camps, to be driven back to the plantations when the water goes down and delivered into the virtual slavery of the peonage system of the South.

The South needs, and is asking, help in this, her time of trouble. It is the psychological moment for us to demand that the South do justice to our people before she receives help from the nation.

Escaped Refugees' Stories

Meanwhile John Jones (that is not his name), 23 years old, came to my door last Friday evening. He was in his shirt sleeves and had a cotton blanket rolled up under his arm. He had just escaped from the government camp in Louisiana. He was born and reared in that state and when the high water came about 300 of them were taken to the camp.

All the men were put in one long tent and the women and children in another. He was there 15 days and was not permitted to associate with his wife and children in all that time. They had to lie on the floor with a

piece of canvas only under them and no covering. Of course they slept in their clothes and had no change. He said: "The first thing they do is to line you up and give you a 'shot,' then they give you something to eat and tell you to lie down for a day. The 'shots' make you sick and sometimes are fatal. I saw one man drop dead as soon as he had received the injection. He was about 40 years old. Over 25 people died in our camp from these 'shots'."

"The next morning the gong rang at 5:30 o'clock and we got a breakfast of salty bacon, one egg, bread and some brownish water they called coffee with no sugar. Then the boss man arrived and told us that we were to go to work on the levee and would be given \$1 a day and board. He has a gun and you know its useless to argue or refuse to go, so you say all right and take the shovel and go.

"At noontime they gave us navy beans, bread and more of the stuff they called coffee with no sugar. Then back to work until night, when we get potatoes, corn beef hash and more of that same so-called coffee.

"It was chilly without any cover so I asked for a blanket, but they wouldn't give me one. Then I said I would pay for one out of my wages and got it. I have it here. It is all I got for my 15 days' work.

Refused Pay, Shot

"I was there 17 days and was worked like this every day and all day, except the two Sundays. Then I went to the boss man and told him I wanted to get my wages as I was going to leave. He said: 'Don't you go away, nigger. If you do I'll shoot you.' He had his gun pointed at me, so I said nothing, but went away. The next day I asked him again for my money. He said, 'Wait till I go down to the commissary and see how much time you have coming.' When he came back he said, 'We don't pay till the first of the month. Nigger, don't you leave here; if you do I will shoot you.' I told him he might as well go ahead and shoot, because I was certainly going to leave there. He then pulled his gun out and shot me through the fleshy part of the leg. I fell and my wife ran out of the women's tent and tied her handkerchief around my leg to stop blood. Another fellow helped me into the tent and laid me down."

"Didn't the other men say or do anything about it?" I asked.

"Not a thing," he said. "There were only three white men to the 300 Colored men, but they had guns and used them on anyone who dared to do anything. That night they beat four men because they refused to work hard all day and part of the night also."

How He Escaped

"While I was lying there I wrote a note to my wife and told her I was going away, but for her to stay there until I sent for her. A friend took it over to her and she waved to let me know she had it. About 11 o'clock that night, when all were asleep, I rolled off the floor under the tent flap and hobbled away. My wound was a clean flesh wound, but my leg was very sore. (I saw the scars where the bullet went in and where it came out, in the fleshy part of the lower thigh.) I walked all night and next day till I reached Arkansas City. I rested four hours, then rode in a wagon for 20 miles. A truck carried me to Helena, Ark. Money for a ticket was given me and I rode to Memphis, Tenn. From there I rode on the Dixie highway to St. Louis in a man's car. From there I came to Springfield and stayed over night. I was brought from there to the Illinois Free Employment office on 35th St., in this city by a kind hearted white man in his car, arriving at 10 o'clock this morning. I waited there until 4 o'clock for work, which did not come, then went out on the street begging for something to eat and a place to sleep. A lady sent me to you, and here I am."

This was at 8 o'clock last Thursday night. Since then I have fed another escaped refugee from the Pine Bluff, Ark., camp. His story will be told in the next issue.

Have you readers here in the North no duty to perform for these, our suffering people?

HITS EVIL IN ZONE OF FLOOD

Walter White Says Investigation of Refugee Camps Revealed Presence of Abuses

NEW YORK, June 1.—Walter White, Assistant Secretary of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, asserted Saturday on his return to New York from a tour of the Southern flood area that attempts have been made to chain Negro tenants with flood relief administered to them, that in many refugee camps Negroes are released only to their landlords and are sent back against their wills to the plantations from which they came, according to The Associated

Press.

Because of such alleged abuses of liberty, he said, "I was told of Negroes eluding guards and escaping, preferring to forego food, shelter, clothing and medical attention rather than go back to the plantation from which the flood waters had driven them."

"There are also numerous instances of brutality," he continued in a formal statement issued through his association, "in the treatment of Negroes forced to work on the levees under the guns of soldiers and even white civilians."

Mr. White said he went to the South "in response to complaints of peonage in the Mississippi flood area," and visited Memphis, Vicksburg, Jackson, New Orleans and other sections.

Labor - 1927

Peonage

Strike Breakers

Held In Peonage

NEW YORK, N. Y., Dec. 29.—
(By AP Wire.)—Colored coal miners are being held under conditions amounting to peonage in the Western Pennsylvania coal regions, according to reports received by the American Civil Liberties Union from the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. These workers, it is charged, are deceived into accepting employment in the mines where strikes are in force and are then caught in the meshes of the company-store credit system. The reports state that these men are herded into "bull-pens" where they are in many cases effectively deprived of all personal liberties ex-

cept the right to run up accounts at the company store.

A high official of the United Mine Workers of America has written to the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People—"The Conditions at these places are unbearable. In fact, they are beyond any description I could give you and must be seen to be appreciated."

Pennsylvania.

Labor - 1927
Peonage

WHITE PLANTERS FORCE NEGROES TO LABOR FOR MERE PITTANCE

Marshall, Texas, June 22.—Federal Judge W. L. Estes of the Eastern District of Texas, Texarkana, today ordered an "immediate and sweeping investigation of the peonage angles" of the flogging of four members of two families near here last Wednesday night.

Meanwhile, Governor Dan Moody at noon, Thursday, wired Sheriff John C. Sanders the offer of rangers to help in bringing the marauders to justice.

D. Osborne, tenant farmer, who was arrested Sunday and charged with two counts of aggravated assault and one of carrying a pistol, today was additionally charged on two other counts, one of the first, if not the last, ever preferred under the Texas anti-mask law.

One complaint charged him with "committing an assault while masked and under disguise," the other on the grounds that he "appeared before a private home masked and in disguise."

Both offenses are felonies. The first carries a minimum sentence of five years as the penalty, while punishment for the latter is from one to five years in prison.

Bonds of \$1,000 were set in each case. They were signed by Cane Anderson, for whom Osborne worked.

Negroes In Peonage

Many white task masters in Texas evidently have never heard of the fourteenth and fifteenth amendments to the Constitution of the United States. In Texas and other parts of the South these amendments are not unknown, but men continue to violate them. A Bee reporter, traveling through Texas, finds that men and women of color are engaged in laborious work under conditions that border on slavery. Many are working for seventy-five cents per day, and these are compelled to live on the plantations of their white masters.

Objects to Anyone "Using" Boy

A white man, who runs a large plantation, according to a recent

issue of the Nation, had inserted in the Richmond Inquirer the following ad:

NEGRO BOY RUNAWAY

A small colored boy about 14 years old, ran away from his home near Stapleton, January 4th. Anyone seeing him will please notify me and hold him until I arrive. I will pay reward. I object to anyone using him. Roy Haines, Stapleton, Ga., Rt. 1, Box 16.

Such notices have been found in sections of Texas recently. One found last week, read:

WANTED — MY NIGGERS.

Anyone seeing them will lock them up. They are under contract with me.

This notice was found pinned and tacked against walls and posted in a little Texas village. The reporter went on several miles farther and found a large plantation situated away from civilization. One thousand ignorant men were working on these plantations. None of them had ever been schooled. They wroked for sixty cents per day.

The Federal Government, it is reported, will start a sweeping investigation through the South and begin teaching white men the significance of the Fourteenth and Fifteenth Admendments.

Amend Sentences Of 2 Convicted Peonage

Houston, Texas, June 3.—(Special)—Floyd Dodd, former justice of the peace, and Kolice Stockwell, farmer, who are back in Raymondville after amendment of their jail terms by Federal Judge Hutcheson, will have long periods in which to pay the fines assessed against them following their conviction on peonage charges.

The court, it is announced, in Houston, has wired the former

justice that he has six months in which to pay his \$1,000 fine and Stockwell has a year in which to pay the government his fine of \$500.

Dodd was sentenced to serve four months in the Cameron Co. jail at Brownsville and Stockwell 90 days. After they had each served about half their terms, Judge Hutcheson amended their sentences.

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Labor-1927.

Peonage

SLAVERY: 1927 MODEL

The recent revelations of slavery and peonage in North-eastern and Southern Mississippi and the neighboring parish of Tangipahoa in Louisiana have rightly shocked the entire country. That enforced bondage should still be practiced in this country was surprising to the majority of people. It seemed incredible that a whole family could in the year 1927 be sold into servitude for twenty dollars. Yet it happened. It is not, however, as unusual as people think. In the remote sections of the cotton states the tenant farmers are at the mercy of the plantation owners who, as shown by the recent case near Corpus Christi, Texas, will not hesitate even to enslave white people. Such practices are on the decline but they have by no means been eliminated. It is encouraging, however, to note that the guilty parties have been brought to book, and in the case of the four white youths enslaved in Texas, the culprits have been given stiff sentences. We shall wait and see now whether Federal authorities will impose as drastic sentences on the two white men who enslaved the Negro family, as they did upon the five white Texans who enslaved the four white boys. Justice in the South is not noted for its color-blindness.

Brothers In Death

Farm Cases Caught

White Men Charged With Brutal Murders of 11 Negro Employees

CAPTURED AFTER SIX YEARS

Monticello, Ga., Feb. 15.—Marvin and Huland Williams, fugitives from justice since 1921, were in the Jasper county jail today, presumably ready to face injunctions that drew out of the death of eleven Negroes on the Williams farm six years ago.

John S. Williams, father of the men, whom the State charged with killing four of the Negroes with an ax and four others by throwing them into Yellow river with sacks of rocks tied from their necks, is serving a life sentence in the State prison. He was convicted in April, 1921.

Huland and Marvin were in jail before it was made known they had been apprehended. City and county police declined to divulge any plans for

bringing the men to trial. It was understood they returned voluntarily from outside the State.

Clyde Manning, Negro "boss" on the Williams farm implicated Williams and his sons in the death of eleven laborers some time after federal operatives of the Department of Justice began an investigation at the farm on reports of peonage conditions. Manning turned State's evidence at William's trial.

Huland faces an indictment charging the murder of a Negro known as "Blackstrap." Marvin is charged with the murder of John Littleton. Another indictment jointly charges Marvin and Leroy, another brother, with murder

of a Negro known as "Iron Jaw." Leroy surrendered about two years ago and asked for an immediate trial. He is at liberty under bond.

George W. Brown, a justice department investigator, testified at the elder Williams' trial that he informed Williams an investigation was to be made at the farm. Brown had heard, he said, that Negroes were kept on the place forcibly and locked up at night. It was brought out that Williams obtained the negroes from Atlanta and Macon city prisons.

The Negroes were killed, testimony showed, after the Federal men began their work. Manning testified that Williams referred to this investigation.

"It won't do for these boys to go up yonder and swear against me," the Negro quoted Williams as saying. "It would ruin me. They got to be done away with. If you don't want to do it, it just means your neck or theirs."

Manning then described how he and Williams transported some of the Negroes to a bridge, tied their hands behind them and sacks of rocks from their necks and threw them in the river. Eleven bodies were found on the farm.

Huland, Marvin and Leroy were not associated with the eight deaths for which their father was charged. Information regarding three others was laid before a grand jury that returned indictments against them.

FIVE WHITE MEN

GUilty OF PEONAGE

Corpus Christi, Texas.—Five white men, including Sheriff Raymond Teller, of Willacy county, were found guilty of peonage by a jury in Federal court here tonight.

The others convicted were Justice of the Peace Floyd Dodd, Frank Brandt and Carl Brandt, former deputy sheriffs, and L. K. Stockwell, a farmer. All five were found guilty on several counts.

The law provides a penalty of five years on each count.

Texas.

SLAVERY IN A FORM STILL EXISTS

Recent revelations have brought to light that peonage, a form of slavery still exists in parts of some of the Southern States. This enforced bondage is usually found in sections more or less remote from the centers of population and enlightenment. It is true that such conditions are on the decrease. But it is a burning shame and disgrace to the States where it is to have laws that make it possible for such conditions to exist as have been recently brought to light. It appears that the colored people are not the only sufferers. Not many weeks ago some farmers near Corpus Christi, Texas, were convicted and sentenced to imprisonment because they had thus enslaved four white youths.

An instance is given where a whole colored family were sold into virtual slavery for \$20. The parties to the transaction have been indicted and will ere long face a Federal jury to stand trial for their crime. Some of the States have laws that allow persons convicted of a crime, however trivial to be hired out to private persons who, it is understood, will let them work out the fine. That is the beginning of the slavery. In places there seems to be an understanding between the so-called officers of the law and the men who do the hiring. The poor ignorant people are taken on remote farms or other kinds of work and are kept in debt for years. The masters seem to be the sole judges in the matter. They manage every year to figure so as to keep them a little in debt. They cannot leave till the debts are paid. The masters can see that they are never paid, hence the slavery.

The above conditions are found in places in Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi and Texas. As said above, the places are growing fewer. We trust no such condition can exist anywhere in North Carolina.

TIMES

FEB 3 1927

THREE NEGROES ASSERT THEY SERVED AS PEONS

Tell at Texas Sheriff's Trial of Whites Also Working Out Fines in Cotton Fields.

Special to The New York Times.

CORPUS CHRISTI, Tex., Feb. 2.—Allegations that negroes, Mexicans and white Americans were worked in the cotton fields of Willacy County under guard were made here today in the trial of Sheriff Raymond Teller, County Attorney Rodger Robinson, Justice of the Peace Floyd Dodd and eight others, all of Willacy County, on charges of peonage and conspiracy to commit peonage.

Three negro youths, Willie Lee, 19; Arthur Dykeman, 16, and Bruce Morgan, 19, declared they were arrested on charges of vagrancy and their fines paid by farmers, after which they were taken to farms to work out the fine and kept there under guard.

The negroes were backed up by a former guard and by two white boys, H. A. Barclay, 16, and Albert Hollingsworth, 18, who declared they worked on the C. S. Stockwell farm near Raymondville and saw another gang of men at work with Jack Chadwick riding guard over them armed with a shotgun.

Chadwick testified he had once been employed by L. K. Stockwell to guard prisoners at \$4 a day. He said a deputy sheriff's commission, a pistol and a shotgun, were given him and he was instructed that if any of the men attempted to run away, to "pour some shot into them."

Chadwick is a former defendant, charges against him having been dismissed when he appeared in court Tuesday without an attorney.

H. A. Jones, a neighboring farmer, testified that he had noticed men being worked under guard on the Stockwell farm.

G. W. McDougal, City Marshal of Raymondville, said he had furnished a truck with which men were transported from the Stockwell farm to the county jail.

FEDERAL COURTS CONVICT SHERIFF OF PEONAGE

Made Willacy County a Slave Market During Cotton Picking Season, Claim U. S. Attorneys.

Corpus Christi, Texas, Feb. 15.—(P. C. N. B.)—Stealing Mexican and Negro laborers and forcing them to work the Texas cotton fields under an armed guard, is the new and unique charge upon which five men, including Sheriff Raymond Teller, of Willacy County, were found guilty of peonage by a jury in Federal Court here recently.

Attorneys for the Government alleged that Willacy County has been made into "a slave market during the cotton picking season." Investigation has been under way since last August when Fred Johnston of the Mercedes Chamber of Commerce reported complaints from cotton growers that persons were diverting to their own uses several truck loads of Negro and Mexican cotton pickers who has been sent from Dallas, Waco and other points.

Several men testified that they had been arrested in Raymondville, Texas, on vagrancy charges and were then taken to the cotton field and forced to work under an armed guard, without being tried. They were charged 75 cents a day for meals and their "fines" were deducted from their pay. Only one night was spent in jail and they were afterward compelled to sleep in a barn and unable to get any response officially as to why they were held.

In addition to Sheriff Teller, others found guilty included Justice of the Peace Floyd Dodd, former Deputy Sheriff Frank Brandt, former Deputy Sheriff Carl Brandt and L. K. Stockwell, a farmer.

TEXAS SHERIFF GUILTY OF PEONAGE

(By Associated Negro Press)

Corpus Christi, Texas, Feb. 9.—following closely in the wake of the famous Mississippi and Louisiana peonage cases, brought to light last week which revealed that Negroes were sold into slavery by whites, was the indictments returned against Sheriff Raymond Teller of Willacy County and five other officers and ex-officers of the law, by the jury in the Federal Court here Friday, on a charge of peonage.

The arrest of the officers was made following the charges made by several young men who claimed that they had been arrested on vagrancy charges, but instead of being tried and fined were taken to cotton fields and forced to work for farmers under armed guards. Those testifying were white.

FIVE IMPRISONED ON PEONAGE CHARGE

Corpus Christi, Tex.—Sentences ranging from 30 days in jail and fine of \$500 up to eighteen months in Federal prison at Leavenworth in Kansas were imposed today on three officials and two farmers of Willacy county, Tex., convicted recently in Federal district court on charges of peonage and conspiracy. Testimony at the trial was that men sent to Willacy county as cotton pickers were charged with vagrancy and made to work out their fines, being held under armed guards.

Peonage Case Leads to Three New Arrests

Houston, Tex., April 1.—Bench warrants were issued last Tuesday by Federal Judge J. C. Hutchinson for the arrest of John Swanner, Jesse Rose, Lee Calloway and Archie Clark, Willacy county citizens, on charges of intimidation of federal witnesses who testified in the peonage case at Corpus Christi, in which former Sheriff Teller, his deputy and several other officials and citizens were found guilty.

Made County "Slave Market" During The Cotton Picking Season, U. S. Attorneys Claim

CORPUS CHRISTI, Texas, Feb. 17.—(By P. C. N. B.)—Stealing Mexican and Negro laborers and forcing them to work the Texas cotton fields under an armed guard, is the new and unique charge upon which five men, including Sheriff Raymond Teller of Willacy County were found guilty of peonage by a jury in Federal court held here recently.

Making County a Slave Market

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Worked Under Armed Guard

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In addition to Sheriff Teller, others found guilty included Justice of the Peace Floyd Dodd, former Deputy Sheriff Frank Brandt, former Deputy Sheriff Carl Brandt and L. K. Stockwell, a farmer.

SENTENCED FOR PEONAGE.

Five Texans Charged Unlawful Holding Cotton Pickers.

CORPUS CHRISTI, Texas, March 12.—(AP)—Sentences ranging from 30 days in jail and fine of \$500 up to 18 months in Federal prison at Leavenworth and fine of \$1,000, were imposed today on three officials and two farmers of Willacy County, Tex., convicted recently in Federal district court of charges of peonage and conspiracy. Testimony at the trial was that men sent to Willacy County as cotton pickers were charged with vagrancy and made to work out their fines, being held under armed guards.

PRISON GATES CLOSE BEHIND SLAVE BOSSES

A Texas Sheriff And Four Others Given Heavy Fines And Sentences On Charge Of Peonage.

CORPUS CHRISTI, Tex., March 16—Sentences ranging from thirty days in jail and fine of \$500 up to eighteen months in Federal prison at Leavenworth and fine of \$1,000 were imposed Saturday on officials and farmers of Willacy county, Tex., convicted recently in United States district court on charges of peonage and conspiracy.

Raymond Teller, sheriff, was fined \$1,000 and sentenced to eighteen months imprisonment. Frank Brandt, former deputy under Teller was given one year and \$500 fine. Floyd Dodd, justice of the peace, was sentenced to serve four months and fined \$1,000. L. L. Stockwell, farmer, was given thirty days and \$500 fine.

Testimony at the trial was that men sent to Willacy county as cotton pickers were charged with vagrancy, and made to work out their fines, being held under armed guards.

"SLAVE MARKET" PRISONERS FACE JUDGE THIS WEEK

Houston, Tex., March 6.—[Special.]

—The operators of a modern "slave market" are to be sentenced by Federal Judge J. C. Hutchison here within the next few days. The defendants, all citizens of Willacy county in the Rio Grande valley, are Sheriff Raymond Teller, Justice of the Peace Floyd Dodd, Frank Brandt, formerly Teller's chief deputy; Carl Brandt, a farmer, and B. K. "Alice" Stockwell, farmer.

These men were convicted in a dramatic trial a month ago at Corpus Christi. Four others, including the county attorney, Rogers Robinson, were acquitted. The government placed a score of witnesses on the stand who had picked cotton last summer in Willacy county. Two of them were from Washington, D. C.; one had been a page in the house of representatives.

Tales of working under shotguns, of armed guards pacing the cotton patches, of a receipt for \$6 paid to a deputy by a farmer for three cotton pickers, were among the high spots of the peonage picture unfolded in the trial.

At the outset of the trial many persons crowded into the corridors of the federal building with their pistols. Judge Hutchison, declaring it looked as if they were turning the federal building into an arsenal, warned them that every one would go to jail thereafter if found with a gun.

Judge Hutchison, after the jury verdict, said he wished more time to "find out what kind of men they really are" before he sentenced the prisoners.

NEW CHARGES GROW

OUT OF PEONAGE CASE

(Preston News Service).

Houston, Tex., March 31.—Bench warrants were issued last Tuesday by Federal Judge J. C. Hutchison for the arrest of John Swanner, Jesse Rose, Lee Calloway and Archie Clark, Willacy county citizens on charges of intimidation of federal witnesses who testified in the peonage case at Corpus Christi, in which former Sheriff Raymond Teller, his deputy and several other officials and citizens were found guilty.

Labor-1927

Welfare Work for housing Conditions.

NEW YORK EVE. POST

AUG 15 1927

ALABAMA WORKERS MOURN GARY DEATH

Steel Magnate Had Long Looked
Upon T. C. I. and Railway
Employees as Wards

SPONSORED PLAYGROUNDS

Birmingham, Ala., Aug. 15 (AP).—A pall of gloom hung over the parks and playgrounds of the Tennessee Coal, Iron and Railway Company here today as white and negro workers alike mourned the passing of their chief.

Elbert H. Gary, chairman of the United States Steel Corporation, long had looked on the "T. C. I." workers here as his particular wards, and during the last few years he had sponsored numerous playgrounds and community gathering places for members of both races employed at the local subsidiary mills of the corporation.

Mr. Gary particularly was pleased with the yearly pageants by children of the workers, negro and white, which are held in company playgrounds at Bessemer, Ensley and other sites of steel mills of the Tennessee Coal, Iron and Railway Company.

He also pointed with pride to the company plan of furnishing houses to all workers, who were permitted to buy homes through a payment plan. It was Mr. Gary's boast that every worker in a "T. C. I." mill could afford his own home by using the company finance plan.

It was little more than a year ago that Mr. Gary became a patient in the company hospital here, placing himself under the care of Dr. Lloyd Nolan, chief of the "T. C. I." Hospital staff.

A change of diet was recommended,

which Mr. Gary is said to have followed until the time of his death. In an interview shortly before returning to the East, Mr. Gary told local newspaper men "that he did not so much mind the simple diet imposed on him," but that he was not particularly pleased with the physician's edict "not too much pie."

TIMES

AUG 16 1927

ALABAMA WORKERS SAD.

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Alabama

Labor- 1927

General.

Welfare Work for housing conditions.

CLEVELAND, OHIO

Press

MAR 26 1927

THE PRESS FORUM

Men

To the Editor of The Press:

S. J. Turner, in his Forum letter on unemployment, blamed the foreigner and the Negro for the situation. He contends they are given preference in employment. This is not at all true.

In the first place, a white face is always given preference when a job is open.

During the World War, however, that ceased to be true, especially when it came to fighting for American ideas of how the world ought to be run. Darkies were good enough then.

Mr. Turner seems to consider colored people from the South as foreigners, even tho their great-grandparents knew no land but America. He should read the 14th amendment to the constitution.

Working possibilities are few for the Negro. The unions refuse to give them their due. Black men today are doing all sorts of hard work that Mr. Turner would not do willingly. Let him read Mendelsohn's "Labor Crisis."

Is not the attitude of many white men toward the Negro provocative of antagonism and a hindrance to civilization?

Labor- 1927

Welfare Work for housing conditions.

Illinois.

NEWS
CHICAGO, ILL.

JAN 28 1927

PLAN RELIEF MEASURES FOR NEGRO UNEMPLOYED

Unemployment conditions among Negroes in Chicago are becoming so acute that emergency measures for relief are being planned by the Urban league, a Negro organization that looks out for the industrial welfare of the colored people of Chicago.

"We are literally swamped by colored men and women seeking employment," said H. R. Robinson, industrial secretary of the league, "and we are unable to obtain work for them. Most of the applicants are sent to us by the United Charities and they are very anxious to secure jobs. They are willing to do any kind of honest work, but simply can't find the jobs.

Chicago department of public welfare, the Booker T. Washington district of the Red Cross, and other agencies are establishing headquarters at 3032 South Wabash avenue, where donations of clothing may be sent.

Labor - 1927

Welfare Work on housing Conditions.

DETROIT, MICH.

DEC 10 1927

Michigan

Natchez Sam Comes to Detroit

This Colored Worker Found a Good Job and a Good Home, but Thousands of Others Haven't, and Therein Is the Heart of the Negro Problem

By H. O. Weitschat

Detroit, like most industrial cities, is faced with the necessity of finding a satisfactory solution of its Negro problem.

Those who have studied the situation know that the Negro population must be properly housed; that the Negro worker must be given opportunity to earn a living.

Without satisfactory home conditions, and an income that will enable him to live decently, it is felt that he can make little progress.

This is the second of a series in which will be discussed the various phases of the Negro problem. Employment, housing, crime, religion, health—all these are inter-locking elements that must be understood if a readjustment is to be brought about that will meet with the satisfaction of the white people as well as the Negroes. The third article will appear next week.

THE boll weevil got into the cotton on the piece that Natchez Sam was working down in Mississippi. Nothing to do for him but go to work for white folks in town. He got himself a job, leaving his sister, the only other member of his family, to keep house for him on the ruined cotton patch.

There was some kind of a ruckus with his white employer. Sam says it started when he wanted to know, at the end of two months, why he never got any pay. Sam avers he got 60 days in the jailhouse, and no pay.

He came out, dressed in greasy, brown denim jumpers and a pair of shoes. No underwear, socks, or hat. He wanted to go far away from Mississippi. He didn't want to tarry even for the few minutes it would take to go back to the farm and say good-bye to his sister.

He came into Detroit in a refrigerator car loaded with Florida oranges, apples from Alabama, and white tramps.

Even along the main street of the Black Belt, St. Antoine, where many odd figures form for the daily parade, the hatless and well-iced Sam attracted attention. He was herded into the office of the Urban League, an organization composed of white and black folks who are trying to make a job of this business of finding a proper place for the Negro in the city's social and economic scheme.

Sam told his story; told it in a sullen way that did not disguise a deep-formed determination to go back to Mississippi some day and claim vengeance.

"What you got there?" asked a secretary, noting a bulge in the right pocket of the jumper.

"Jus' my knife," said Sam, pulling out a weapon with a blade six inches in length.

They had a hard time persuading Sam to give up the knife. It was, to his way of thinking, the only weapon

he had against a world that was playing bad tricks on him. He knew nothing of laws prohibiting the carrying of dangerous weapons.

Sam was provided with a few additional pieces of wardrobe. Also the league found a job for him. He became a flunkie in a cheap lodging house. He got his bed, three meals a day, and a few dollars a week. But these necessities came regularly. There was no arguing about them. Sam became an enthusiastic northerner. He awaited his opportunity, got a job in an automobile plant, and clinched that job by working regularly.

Today, Natchez Sam is the owner of a bungalow in the Tireman Avenue district. The sister he left on the cotton patch is installed there as mistress.

The idea of going back to Mississippi to get even with the white folks who played him a mean trick has faded from his mind. Go back to that place? Why, he wouldn't even go back to try to sell the farm. The state can have it. He never wants to lay an eye on it again.

That is the kind of a case the Urban League men like to point to, when they tell you that big cities like Detroit would not have much of a race problem on their hands, if only a way could be found to give employment and decent housing to deserving Negroes.

"Sam is a skilled worker today," remarked John C. Dancy, secretary of the Urban League. "He has employment all the year around. He has gotten himself a good home, out among folks of his own color. He lives his own life; meddles in the business of no other man. He's contented. The hatred for the white man has left him, because he found here in Detroit some white men who gave him a chance.

"But Sam is an unusual case.

"Far too many of the Negroes who come here get no steady employment. They can't afford decent homes. They must live in an environment that tends to degeneration, rather than progress."

WHENEVER there is discussion of underlying causes of race trouble, the talk veers back eventually to economics. Given steady employment, at a wage that will enable him eventually to become a home owner and to enjoy the ordinary comforts of life, the average city-dwelling Negro is bound to become an asset to a community, according to Dancy, who has spent 10 years in the work of adjusting incoming black men from the agricultural south to their industrial surroundings in Detroit.

But the average city dwelling Negro doesn't have the steady employment, Dancy says, and if he did, there would be small opportunity for him to buy the kind of a home he desires, because the penetration of the black resident into white districts is almost always combatted. And the districts set aside for colonization by Negroes

have in most cases turned out to be mere squatter settlements, without benefit of sewers, water, and other services necessary to healthful living.

It would have been an easy thing for Natchez Sam to develop into something violently different. He might have turned out a shining example of a Negro's inability to hold a place on a decent level of society.

For, according to those who have studied the Negro's part in our crime statistics, there is one place where he is guaranteed a position of equality with the white man; where opportunity is not withheld, where the returns are rich and prompt.

That is the underworld.

A Negro can join a bootlegging, moonshining, dope-peddling, or gambling gang, and he can make much more than honest work will bring.

A hootch maker interested in the delivery of a load of his poison doesn't care much whether it is delivered by a man with a black skin, so long as it reaches its destination. He will pay a black runner as much as a white.

A NEGRO new from the south, out of work in a strange northern city, hungry perhaps, is not always going to require a lot of hard persuading on the part of the booze or dope peddler who wants to hire him. A Negro who has been rebuffed by white men in honorable lines of business, is likely to say to himself: "They won't have me in decent work. I'll take what I can get." And he'll go into something that is not decent.

That may be one reason why a good many of our new Negro residents go wrong.

The most reliable statistics now available indicate that there are between 25,000 and 30,000 Negroes employed in Detroit. Of this number, about 17,000 are working in factories or foundries. About 3,000 are engaged in city or other public service, and the others are scattered about in menial capacities, stores, and in the building trades. At least 65 per cent of the total may safely be classed as common laborers. The wage of the common laborer is not likely to be such that he can aspire to home ownership, if he has a family. In the case of the Negro, he cannot expect to rent such a house as he would like to have, for rents to Negroes are abnormally high.

He must take places offered in the old St. Antoine Street district, or in the other colonies open to men of his color.

Mixed investigating commissions, supposed to be unbiased, have stated in effect that a great help to the Negro in Detroit would be a board of health wrecking crew, which would demolish the disease-breeding shacks rented at a high figure to Negroes by profiteers who know they can impose on these people because their color restricts the area in which they may find abode.

So, summing up the closely related subjects of employment and housing, one finds the Negro on the short end of both. His employment is unsteady, and it is of the low-paid class. The price he must pay for rent is high, and the caliber of the house he gets is low.

Those whose sympathy is with the black man are quick to seize on these facts, when one brings up the mounting figures of Negro crimes and Negro charity cases.

"What more can you expect?" they ask. "A white person, in the same environment, would do no better."

Fortunately, the interest in the Negro problem does not end in this dismal blind alley.

NEGRO leaders and white persons co-operating with them are looking far ahead. Says Mr. Dancy:

"We've got to show the people that the colored man is fitted for something better than menial service and the common labor that is too burdensome or obnoxious for the white man. We are making progress in that direction. Negroes are convincing some factory managers that they can be good skilled workers. The generation of colored people now growing up will furnish a much

greater proportion of trained workers in many lines.

"The big question is, will the white man receive these skilled workers and judge them by their ability, rather than by the color of their skin? As prejudice wanes and understanding takes its place, there is a growing hope that this question will be answered in the fair way.

"One of the most depressing things in the life of colored people today, is to see a trained, even talented, man or woman driven back into some common form of labor, because the doors of opportunity are closed by race prejudice. The spectacle of a university-trained colored porter is not an uncommon one. We must face it, and overcome the conditions that are responsible for it.

"Another big development in the advancement of our people is the training of Negroes for business. A good many people seem to think they are fitted for nothing save perhaps the operation of a barber shop or restaurant.

"Negroes are going into other lines, and making good. As they succeed, they furnish employment for others of their race. In time, it may not be too much to hope that Negro business institutions will take care of most of the Negro help that is fitted for a higher type of employment.

"We have instances here in Detroit which tend to prove that a fair share of white people will buy from a Negro, if he turns out a worthy product.

"Of course, the colored man intent on a manufacturing or commercial enterprise, is handicapped by lack of credit. He does not stand very high at the banks. Nor is that difficult to explain. The income of the average Negro has been a matter of such uncertainty, and it has been so small, that our average colored man is not a very good financier. He lacks practice. The steady Negro worker, it has been proven, is a pretty good customer of the banks. There are not enough of his class, that's all."

Jumping still another hurdle, the leaders of Detroit's colored population are endeavoring to erect their own financial houses. They have organized a loan company which has been functioning successfully for more than a year. A building and loan association, manned by Negroes, is also operating.

The loan company has acquired a piece of land on the east side, in a Negro district that has rapidly been improving. On this, within the next two years, will be erected a store and office building. The stores are expected to furnish the beginnings of Negro mercantile houses. The offices will be rented to colored professional and business men.

THIS development is typical of much that is being done to untangle the race problem. Instead of joining in the cry that the Negro is shut off from credit, the more intelligent leaders of the colored group are busy building a financial structure of their own.

Of the 700-odd business places owned and conducted by Negroes, an encouraging number fall into classifications not generally associated with the colored man's chosen line. The common impression seems to be that he doesn't operate much outside the realm of restaurants, pool rooms, barber shops, hair-straightening parlors, and shoe-shining shops. To be sure, there are among his favorite lines, but it is also to be noted that there are 55 Negro-owned tailor shops, 45 plastering contractors, 41 paperhangers, 39 groceries, 34 painters, 33 confectioneries, 18 drug stores, and lesser numbers covering 40 or more other types of business.

With the Negro branching out in the trades and professions, he is marching toward a financial status that will in time enable him to help himself. Having reached this goal, he will, to a large degree, solve the dual problem of employment and housing.

"Once financially independent, and able to afford a home of modern convenience, what will the Negro do?

Will he assume a new aggressiveness, and insist on neighboring with white persons who may object to him?"

This question was asked of Mr. Dancy.

"The Negro," he said, "is not looking for trouble. At the same time, the more intelligent ones know what their rights are, and they do not care to be herded about, and told to go here or there, without regard to their rights. Left alone, given a fair chance to make his way, socially and economically, I believe the average Negro would much prefer to settle among people of his own kind. There may be exceptions, but I do not believe they are typical of the race."

(Another article in this series will be published next week.)

America's Bulging Black Belts.

To the Editor of SATURDAY NIGHT:

I HAVE just read your first article on the Negro problem, which, of course, is the same as the Negro problem in Chicago, St. Louis, Indianapolis, New York, Birmingham (Ala.) and New Orleans. In fact, the problem is one of the greatest of those facing America today.

Just as a matter of record, I might say that I was born and raised in the most southern town in Indiana; that eight members of my family served in the union army and of the eight, four fell on southern soil and two more died later of wounds. I still generally vote the ticket of the party of Lincoln. Had it to be done over again, I would serve in the Union army and would favor the abolition of slavery, not only because human slavery is an abomination but a source of great weakness among the holders of the slaves themselves. Up until Oct. 1, I had resided in Louisiana for a period of three years. Before that I had lived in Evansville, Terre Haute, Indianapolis and Clinton, Ind. Therefore, I have observed the Negro problem in both the north, south and along the borders of Dixie.

Like many other natives of southern Indiana and thousands of Kentuckians, my people were against the south in the sixties up until Appomattox and for the south from then on. Socially, we understood and loved the southern people. Like them, we understood the Negro, his assets and his liabilities. Beyond all else, we did not and do not hate the Negro. Under proper conditions, we not only do not object to being associated with Negroes, we actually miss them when they are not around. The type of northerner who so nearly ruined both the southern people and the Negroes during reconstruction, the real damnyankee, neither understood the southern people nor the Negroes and are fully responsible for the worse angles of the Negro problem which we face today.

WHEN they were freed from slavery, the majority of Negroes were grown children, nothing better nor worse. Perhaps this was the natural

result of slavery, but evidence is available that the same conditions exist in British Africa where slavery has never been known. By and all, in spite of outstanding examples to the contrary, the Negro is an inferior race to the typical white race which settled this country. Man for man, perhaps group for group, there are cases where the Negro compares favorably with white people. There are plenty of white people who are grown children. But there you face the bitter unalterable fact of race. There is no successful example in history of distinct races living together in equality and harmony. Black and white, yellow and white, red and white—they have not mixed in equality and harmony. Where they have mixed at all, as in large sections of Latin America, the half-bloods have not been the equal of any of the full bloods of any of the mixed races. Only when all fear of Indian domination had passed, did the American Indian receive the popular respect which was always his due. Intellect for intellect, honor for honor, bravery for bravery, the Indian was the white man's equal. Even in his ferocity, he thought of nothing more cruel than the white man on occasion had used even while enjoying a much higher state of civilization.

Therefore the whole thing boils down to just this: The white and Negro races are two distinct units in the body politic and unless white people are willing to have their children crossed with Negro blood, they must so remain. Since it is a sociological fact that two races cannot live side by side in equality and harmony, then either the whites or the blacks must dominate the other. As the bulk of our population is white, it will, whether rightly or wrongly, eventually dominate the situation.

THE exceptional Negro of education, ability and common sense must bravely face the problem that the welfare of the individual must be subjugated to the welfare of the whole and if he is wise, he will, as has the young man mentioned in your article, strive to work out some practical answer to his racial problem consistent with the facts. Otherwise, he should emigrate to Africa where the Negro race predominates, at least in certain sections. Cruel though it may seem, he has no other alternative and it is even more cruel to dangle false hopes before his eyes.

Now as to the bulk of the Negro population.

First of all, we must have segregation. Brutal segregation to unhealthy, dark and gloomy locations is not the only alternative to gross mingling of the races as has been proved in many

a southern city. Society as a whole must find a way of segregating the American Negroes in wholesome neighborhoods where ample opportunities can be provided for them as individuals to work out their own salvation along the natural law of the survival of the fittest.

THE American Negro is entitled to as well paved streets, as complete sanitary facilities, as good parks, most of all, as good schools as the American white man and it may surprise many northerners to know that they are being given these facilities in the south almost as rapidly as the whites themselves are getting them. Above all, the Negro must be taught self-respect. Perhaps the weakness of the southern system is that it does not teach self-respect. The Negroes are pampered too much economically, even if they are roughed a bit politically. No Negro worries in the south. He does not have to; that's the white man's job. On the other hand, the north pampers the Negro not at all economically, which is quite a jolt for the newcomer from Dixie, and pampers him far too much politically for the good of both his soul and the soul of the northern politician. When the Negro learns the lesson of self-respect, the problem of segregation will be solved. The Negro will no more want to live with the "damned whites" than the whites with the "damned niggers."

Now a word as to the franchise. Every student of political economy with a grain of sense admits today that the giving of the franchise to the Negroes right after the Civil War was a gross error in judgment. Had the southern whites not seized the control of their states from the Negro-carpetbag governments, they would have had to emigrate to a man and the south would have had a political history parallel to Haiti, Santo Domingo and Liberia.

Nowhere in America today does the average Negro exercise the right of free and equal franchise. This is true in the south where he is barred from the polls and in the north where he is voted en bloc by politicians, crooked and otherwise. Which is the worse? Reverting to slang, I would say to our raving political friends who would upset the southern system, "Be yourself, big boy, be yourself."

BUT many will say white people are voted en bloc, too. Sure. What we need is an intelligence test for the ballot which would bar 99 per cent of the southern Negroes and a vast number of black, brown and white voters all over the country. Is this against the spirit of democracy? Maybe. If so, make the best of it.

But the problem is not being solved today. It is drifting. It will continue to drift towards the shoals of worse race riots in Detroit and other northern centers than have ever been staged or thought of, if the drifting is allowed to continue. The race

problem of white and red was solved in blood to the disgrace of our mighty nation. Must we eventually solve the white-Negro problem likewise? The answer is in our hands. Expect no help from the politician. Expect little help and much opposition from the so-called up-lifters. But perhaps there is sufficient sanity among both blacks and whites to yet solve the problem before the coming of a catastrophe which the present system brings nearer every day.

Very truly yours,

DONALD F. WALKER.

Bay City, Mich., Dec. 3, 1927.

Labor - 1927

Welfare Work for Housing Conditions.

GLOBE-DEMOCRAT
ST. LOUIS, MO.

JAN 16 1927

NEGROES FROM SOUTH PROGRESS IN STATE

Find Better Wages and Living Conditions in State, Survey Shows.

Migrant negroes from the South have greatly bettered their conditions by coming to Missouri, according to the biennial report of the Missouri Negro Industrial Commission which has questioned 500 migrant negroes during 1925 and 1926 on this subject. Of this number 476 report a marked improvement in their conditions.

The report states negroes employed in the cotton section of Southeast Missouri as a whole have made good, having obtained higher wages in most instances than those paid them in their home states.

The report shows the commission has placed more than 6000 negroes in the field, factory and home service; held 200 group meetings in the interest of health and sanitation with slides and charts furnished them by the State Board of Health, and conducted a special campaign in the interest of birth registration at the request of the board.

A legislative program of the commission includes adequate educational facilities for negro children in rural Missouri; separate reformatory for incorrigible negro boys, and provision made for tubercular and feeble-minded negroes.

ST. LOUIS, MO.

FEB 8 1927

NEGRO RESTRICTED AREAS ARE CALLED HEALTH MENACES

Urban League Declares Housing Conditions Are Bad and Rents Too High.

A menace to public health and a fertile field for the development of

criminal instincts is offered by the congestion of negroes in restricted districts of the city, according to the annual report of the Urban League of St. Louis, an organization whose purpose it is to further the interests of the negro population.

Housing conditions, the report points out, are particularly unsatisfactory, with exorbitant rents being demanded for old houses built many years ago, and little property available for negro buyers who wish to own their own homes.

The activities of the Urban League during 1926 included a dental clinic at which 699 children received free treatment; a neighborhood department, fostering the organization of groups for the improvement of home life; the industrial department, or employment bureau; health and recreational activities and educational work.

The officers are Edgar R. Rombauer, president; James L. Usher, first vice president; Mrs. S. P. Stafford, second vice president; E. D. Hamilton, secretary, and Dr. W. P. Curtis, treasurer. John Clark is executive secretary.

ST. LOUIS, MO.

SEP 5 1927

UNEMPLOYMENT IS FACTOR IN 46 NEGRO KILLINGS

Urban League Secretary Also Blames Poor Housing Conditions.

Unemployment and poor housing conditions were cited by John L. Clark, executive secretary of the Urban League, as the main causes of homicides among the negro population of St. Louis, in an interview today.

There have been 89 homicides in St. Louis this year, and of this number 46 victims have been negro

men and women.

The negro population of St. Louis has approached 110,000, in the opinion of Clark, who is conducting a survey of that class of population here. In a recent newspaper survey the negro population was found to be about 95,000, but Clark says that in his judgment this figure is 15,000 less than the actual number.

"There is no doubt in my mind that unemployment is indirectly responsible for a great number of homicides among our people," said Clark. "A man out of work is a dangerous character, especially if he is hungry or if his family is in need of food and clothes. It is easy for him to drop into a bootleg center, take a drink or two, and then become excited and angry and commit murder."

Hard to Find Work.

"Negro men are finding it increasingly difficult to obtain work, especially at an adequate wage, and at present about one-third of them either have no jobs or are employed only a few days each week. The situation seems to be growing worse."

"Negro physicians and professional men complain that their patients do not have the money they formerly had. The average daily number of applicants at the league employment agency has increased from the normal of 60 or 75 to 110. The mills are letting out men all the time and there are very few opportunities for work. There is a general slump everywhere and particularly in the Mississippi Valley flooded districts."

"Many negroes go into bootlegging because there is no other work open to them. In fact there is a growing tendency on the part of unemployed negroes to take up this business."

"Later, when work for which the negro is fitted opens up he cannot take it because his past record will not bear inspection."

"Children Deliver Liquor."

"There are many instances in which negro children are used to deliver bootleg product."

"Until this summer there was no playground for the 6,000 school children living east of Jefferson avenue. During July and August, however, two playgrounds were maintained by the Urban League, one on Morgan near Thirteenth and the other at Eighteenth and Gratiot. These playgrounds had a total attendance of 8,508. They were vacant lots furnished with sandboxes, volley and baseball outfits and supervised by volunteers. Between 200 and 300 children attended these playgrounds regular-

ly. The vast majority of the 6,000 were without any proper place for recreation. Municipal playgrounds for colored children are badly needed here."

"The housing situation is also responsible for a great number of homicides. Within the last year apartments and flats to accommodate several hundred negro families have been put up and have been rented to the middle or better class negro, but there are a vast majority of families who live in quarters without proper sanitation, often damp and so crowded that bickering, jealousy and quarrels which often result seriously are a certainty."

"These conditions cannot be ignored much longer. The community at large must recognize its responsibility in these matters."

Missouri.

Labor - 1927

Welfare Work for housing conditions.

NEGRO WORKERS SOLD BUM HOUSES

(By a Worker Correspondent.)

Many workers trying to find relief from high rents in the city, go to repairs. A year hasn't gone and he the suburbs. If they come to South needs a new roof. Water is coming Jamaica, it will be a case of jumping through in several places and spoil from the frying pan into the fire. ing the new rug. Heavens, it isn't

The district where poor people live is unspeakably ugly, with an ice plant, a city dump, a filthy ditch, an incinerator, and a steam laundry belching smoke. In a storm the streets, deep in water, are almost impassable. This is the section where most colored people live.

The Building Boom

For about a year, feverish building activity has been on here. Hundreds of box-like, six room houses have been hastily thrown up. These jerry-built structures are made attractive by flashy paper, paint and modern improvements. The builders ask between six and seven thousand for these cheaply built shacks.

But they are new and so find ready and quick purchasers. In many cases the houses are sold before they are finished. An appeal is made to colored people throughout the metropolitan area. The clever ads bring droves of colored workers out every pleasant Sunday and sales are brisk. The southerner who doesn't like a Harlem flat anyway and the northerner, oppressed by outrageous rents needs little persuasion to buy one of these new 'clean shells.

Defects Concealed

However, there are a few items left out of the salesman's spiel. He doesn't mention the long distance from Jamaica's business center, the time necessary to get to the city, the cost of cleaning cesspools, and the over-crowded schools.

Colored Workers Sold Bum Houses

Two inefficiently managed car lines serve the section, but one of them breaks down in any severe rain storm. All this the bally-hoo man keeps under his hat.

Not until he has spent a winter in his fancy contraption, does the worker wake from his dream of home ownership. After that experience he realizes that installments plus interest charges, taxes, coal, water, insurance and carfare bring his expenses up to his Harlem rental. He wants to send an SOS call for a Harlem lodger.

The new tenement houses which are now being constructed are practically all of the \$20 a room type. Those workers who are unable to pay on the basis of \$20 a room are forced to remain in the old houses. These are notoriously known to be damp, dark, and unsanitary—and are fire-traps besides.

NEGRO WORKERS IN EAST HARLEM SUFFER MOST BY SEGREGATION PLUS HIGH RENTS

By HILDA ABEL.

(Journalism Class, Workers School)

The recent recommendations of Governor Smith's Housing Commission will give small comfort to the millions of workers in New York City. But the class that is hardest hit by the housing problem are the Negro families of the east side of Harlem. For them the problem is almost unsolvable.

This section extends roughly from 97th Street to 110th Street and from Third Avenue to Madison Avenue. Here the landlords' apartment houses (tenements would be more correct) are set apart, and the rents are raised when a new tenant moves in. The white workers are forced to leave because of the high rents. He must find cheaper quarters elsewhere. Negro workers who are discriminated against in other sections of the city are forced to take these rooms, having no other choice.

They are compelled to sublet some of them, so that frequently as many as five or six families can be found living in a single six-room flat. And this is not the worst condition that can be cited. In many of these flats double sleeping "shifts" prevail. Some sleep in the daytime, while others occupy the sleeping quarters at night. The Negroes are not the only ones who are discriminated against in this way. The Porto Ricans, who are now settling on the east side of Harlem, face similar problems.

The new tenement houses which are now being constructed are practically all of the \$20 a room type. Those workers who are unable to pay on the basis of \$20 a room are forced to remain in the old houses. These are notoriously known to be damp, dark, and unsanitary—and are fire-traps besides.

If the recommendations of the Housing Commission go into effect (and there is every probability that they will), the problem of how to live will be more unanswerable than ever for the Negro workers. When rent takes away \$60 a month from the average income, food and clothes become luxuries—not necessities.

The morale and health of the workers will be materially affected and thus his work will suffer and his life crippled.

NEGRO RENTAL AGENTS EXPLOIT OWN RACE IN OVERCROWDED HARLEM: LANDLORD WINS

(By a Colored Worker Correspondent)
Labor Journalism Class, Workers' School

Negro rental agents have been a vicious factor in the Harlem housing situation from the start. They prey on colored workers, taking advantage of the limited housing area available for this group to force rents up.

In New York, as in other cities, the great crowd of Negro workers are massed in undesirable sections. The Harlem agent saw in this social ban a chance for money making. His method is simple and always the same. He looks for an owner eager for bigger profits. "If you will turn out your white tenants and let me put in colored people, I will get you three dollars more a room," he urges.

Landlords' Creed.

This bait always works. Harlem rents have been kited sky-high by this sales talk. Prejudice on the part of landlords against Negroes melts away before their greed.

Old-fashioned, rat-ridden, run-down tenements are filled with colored tenants as fast as enterprising hustlers can find such places. Colored people sometimes move in without repairs.

being made. The colored agent who insists on the slightest rights for the tenant is a rare bird. His boss is the landlord.

House after house in the district has been emptied of its white occupants. After a hasty superficial cleaning, the new colored tenants move in. Today in an area bounded roughly by the Harlem River, Morningside Heights and 125th street, thousands of workers are crowded.

Homes Overcrowded.

In order to meet the outrageous rents Harlem has taken to lodgers. The majority of homes are filled with roomers. Both moral and physical evils have followed in the train of this crowding and lack of privacy.

In an endeavor to force lower rents, necessary repairs, proper service and periodic renovation, the colored worker has had recourse to the courts. The Washington Heights court calendar is crowded with rent cases.

Families Dispossessed.

Negro agents appear here and argue against reducing the rents of poor colored mothers. They get writs to dispossess families where the wage earner is temporarily out of work. By offering the bait of more rent, the Negro agent gets a start in the business. By keeping down expenses for his boss this lackey keeps his foothold.

The South has long had a parasitic class of Negro landlords in every large city. These persons lived on rentals from ramshackle wooden houses. Now, here in Harlem, we have a growing class of colored landlords and realtors who are living easy off the labor and misery of the working masses.